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THE TRAVELLERS ROYAL IN THE DESERT

NARRATIVE OF A JOURNEY

FROM

CALCUTTA TO EUROPE,

BY

WAY OF EGYPT

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IN THE YEARS

1827 AND 1828.

B1895

BY MRS. CHARLES LUSHINGTON.

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PREFACE.

WHEN the Author left Calcutta, she promised several of her friends there to keep a Journal of the occurrences of her Journey, and to furnish them with copies of it to enable them to judge of the practicability of the undertaking, especially by ladies, and to determine whether the enjoyment would be likely to compensate for the inconveniences inseparable from travelling alternately by water and by land, and partly through countries unprovided with the comforts and facilities of civilised life. In short, she was expected to give a faithful estimate of the comparative advantages between the long tried passage round the Cape of Good Hope, and what was familiarly called the "Journey overland through Egypt."

In order to comply with these wishes, she kept very detailed notes of all that happened throughout her Travels; but when the time of copying them arrived, she found it required some immediate stimulus to compel her not to defer the task of arrangement and transcription. Frequent enquiries respecting Egypt, notwithstanding the numerous excellent books already published relative to that country, induced her to think that a narrative of her Journey, in a plain and unpretending form, might be presented to the Public, and her engagements to her distant friends be thus fulfilled. These considerations led to the present publication.

The Author is deeply sensible how much the defects of her Book will demand indulgence, as it has not been revised by any literary person, but was at once delivered by herself into the hands of the publisher; indeed, little alteration has been made in the original journal, beyond adapting its contents to a narrative form, and omitting details that might prove tedious, and descriptions which

had been infinitely better executed by established authorities.

Previously to her entering Egypt, the Author, of course, consulted the best writers on the subject, and occasionally referred to them when viewing the splendid remains of antiquity of which they treat; yet the reader must not be disappointed, if in the following pages be merely found the record of her own sentiments and observations, as it was her undeviating object to preserve them, as far as possible, unbiassed by the opinions she had read. Although, therefore, her imperfect work will prove quite unworthy the notice of the scientific, and those who require deep research, and acute disquisition, still it may not, she flatters herself, be found useless to those who contemplate a similar journey, nor wholly unamusing to people fond of light reading.

Lastly, the Author has naturally calculated that some persons, who are friendly to her, will be interested in the narrative; it is possible that others

may derive benefit from her experience; and it is too probable that many may disapprove of her presumption in publishing at all: but it is impossible (and she fearlessly asserts it) that the work can give one moment's pain to a single individual.

NARRATIVE,

&c.

CHAPTER I.

Reflections on leaving Calcutta—Departure in the Ganges Steam Vessel—Voyage to Trincomalé—Desolate appearance of the place—Point de Galle—Beauty of the scenery—Mrs. Gibson's school.

For many years the plan of returning to England from India by the Red Sea and Egypt had been familiar to my imagination. The facility of the undertaking had been satisfactorily demonstrated by a gentleman who edited one of the Calcutta newspapers, and who recommended the route on his own experience of its eligibility; and I constantly dwelt on the delightful contrast of employing the necessary period of passing from Asia to Europe, in exploring the novel-

ties of the Desert; in viewing the stupendous monuments of Egypt; and in visiting the lovely countries of Sicily and Italy; instead of devoting five long months to the monotony of a voyage round the Cape of Good Hope, in a ship crowded with passengers, little known, or too well known, and distracted by the mirth or fractiousness of numerous children.

Whether from early prejudice, from frequent illness, from witnessing the generally dreadful devastation of the climate, or from the loss of friends, I had not done justice to India, nor appreciated the advantages which, notwithstanding its various drawbacks, it still afforded. To return to England was the incessant yearning of my heart; and, while compelled to remain in Bengal, I merely exercised a resignation similar to that of the sufferers in Dante's Purgatory, who were

> Contenti
> Nel fuoco, perchè speran di venire
> Quando che sia, alle beate genti.

But, although the hope of returning home had latterly buoyed me up, and rendered all the sufferings from the climate light, yet, when the event actually arrived, it was attended with far different feelings. The dissolution of long-established associations was acutely painful. The recollection of the many years of youth and happiness passed away; the sober anticipations of the future which had taken place of expectations of unbounded enjoyment; (and who at one period of life does not look forward in the same manner?) the parting with numerous valued friends endeared by similarity of habits and pursuits, so weakened, for the time, my anxiety to quit the country, that I no longer wondered at that determination, or rather change of determination, so fatal to many, of "remaining one year more."

In leaving India, after many years' residence, there is, perhaps, no greater demand on sensibility and good feeling than a sale

of one's property. Time is seldom allowed for much consideration before the house is thrown open to the public; and as the inconvenience of sending home much baggage admits of little selection, many tokens of remembrance must be parted with; paper after paper sacrificed; the bundle of letters put by for future consideration, taken up again, and again put by to be reconsidered, still, in the end, must share the same fate; and thus are destroyed kind expressions, and assurances of regard and affection, which were to solace many an evening in future life. Those only who have been similarly situated can understand all the distress which such scenes occasion, even under the least annoying circumstances; but when these take place in consequence of the death of the master of the family, the case is greatly aggravated. In India it is almost invariably the practice to sell by auction the effects of a person deceased, a few days after his demise; and it

often happens, by the precipitation of an unconcerned executor, that the unfortunate survivor is irretrievably deprived of what might have best conduced to her consolation *.

In England, on the contrary, the son, or some near relative, generally succeeds to the estate, and the widow is not immediately ejected from the house to which she has been accustomed. At all events, there is a home where the family circle can assemble; every local tie is not in a moment dissevered:

* Among the Europeans in India there are scarcely any old persons, as almost every body is a temporary resident. Hence, if you search the well tenanted burying grounds of the large cities, you will discover few besides the graves of the youthful, who have been cut off by some violent disease amid the buoyancy of health, or the tombs of those of middle age arrested by death when just about to reap the fruit of long toil and privation by returning to their native land. It is this which renders our Indian cemeteries so peculiarly melancholy; for though we bow to the decree which summons away the aged and the infirm, yet, humanly speaking, and in our blindness, we are apt to pronounce the death of the young to be premature, and a fit subject of aggravated regret.

" —— For oh, it goes against the mind of man,
To be turn'd out from its warm, wonted house,
Ere yet one rent admits the winter's chill.

Miss Baillie's *Rayner*.

whereas, in India, the widow, within a few weeks, if not a few days from the fatal event, is hurried on board ship, almost ignorant of the spot where her husband's remains are deposited, and can only teach her children that their father lies buried in a distant land, and that to them his tomb is now inaccessible.

Travellers proceeding to England from Bengal by the Red Sea, find it difficult to reconcile the several favourable seasons for sailing. To arrive at Bombay early in December, which is the best time for leaving it for the Red Sea, it is necessary to quit Bengal before the north-east monsoon has begun; hence a sailing ship has a very tedious, and probably a boisterous passage. We were, however, so fortunate as to procure accommodation in one of the Company's steam-vessels, which had been ordered round to Bombay just at the very time it suited our purpose. My prudent Calcutta friends poured in upon me remon-

strances against the whole of the undertaking. They represented to me the discomfort and risk of the steamer, the shoals of the Red Sea, the *horrors* of the Desert, and the uncertainties of the Turkish government; but I had duly weighed all these difficulties, which I was satisfied I had sufficient courage and fortitude to encounter. In addition to this, the stimulus of performing a journey which no female from our side of India had achieved before me, joined to the advantage of travelling with the party which was expecting us at Bombay, made every peril appear light;—so promising to some, whom I was about to leave, a narrative of my adventures, I embarked on board the Ganges, on the 26th of September, 1827.

As the Ganges was an experimental vessel, it may not be amiss shortly to describe her. She was built of teak, pierced for ten guns; carried two engines of forty-horse power each, and was intended for either a

vessel of war or dispatch. Unfortunately, however, in qualifying her for the former purpose, too much regard had been paid to solidity, and the object of celerity was thus defeated; the force of our steam in calm weather impelling us little more than five miles an hour against the swell. Nevertheless this very defect proved a benefit to us in the cabins, as the strength of her build prevented our feeling the tremulous motion so generally complained of on board steam-vessels.

I was surprised to find that we experienced much less heat in the steamer than we should have done at the same season in a sailing vessel. Her perpetual motion caused a current of air even during the calms, and we found the climate still cooler when the wind was contrary, than when it was fair, as we had to press forward against it, and the steam was carried off much above our heads.

It was originally intended that we should proceed directly to Point de Galle, for which end we had, as we supposed, taken in a supply of coal for fifteen days' consumption; but after we had been out ten days, during which nothing material occurred, it was ascertained that, from the defective quality of the coal, we should not have a sufficient stock of it to take us to that harbour. On the 7th of October, therefore, the fires were extinguished, and we made the best of our way to Trincomalé by beating under sail, reserving the remainder of our coal for steam with which to stem the current off the port.

The entrance into Trincomalé is highly picturesque; but the inner bay, which is the secure harbour, is so surrounded by hills that the sea becomes quite smooth, and the atmosphere heavy and confined. I had heard this spot so much extolled, that I was a good deal disappointed. There is little about it remarkable, in my opinion, except the size of

the harbour itself, and the view from Fort Ostenburg; and these have been so often described that I need not dwell on them. At Trincomalé we first saw the vessels of the coast with their singular outrigger, being a sort of frame-work of four crossed beams or oars thrown over the side, extending about eight feet to windward for the purpose of steadying the vessel, which is very narrow, and would, without it, upset when under sail. It is extraordinary the people should prefer this clumsy contrivance to the simple method of making the boat a little wider. The presence of our steamer excited no interest among the natives, few of the boatmen laying aside their apathy sufficiently to approach the ship.

On the afternoon of the 10th of October, we quitted Trincomalé with the most glorious sunset I had ever witnessed. We passed the formidable rocks called the Basses, during the night of the 12th, at the distance, it

was calculated, of only three miles, and anchored in the harbour of Point de Galle on the 13th, having perceived our vicinity to it long before we reached the shore, from the spicy perfumes wafted by the land-breeze. The view of the town from the sea, though not so magnificent, is more cheerful than that of Trincomalé. The garrison and inhabitants were assembled on the ramparts to see us come in, and afforded a very lively spectacle; whereas at Trincomalé the place seemed deserted, and disappointment and dejection to prevail. The entrance to Point de Galle is marked by several bold rocks, against which the sea beats with great violence. The exasperation of the waves must be tremendous in a southerly gale.

Though long accustomed to India, I was struck on landing with the beauty of the scenery, for though quite oriental, it was in a style essentially differing from that of Hindostan; the roads cut through topes of

cocoa-nut trees, rustic bridges over winding streams, hills and deep dells, and huts made of palm-leaves, woven in a variety of different plaits. The natives are an elegant, but an effeminate race; the men scarcely to be distinguished from the women by their dress, which consists of a vest and loose robe of cotton; their hair long, and gathered up in knots and braids, fastened behind with gold bodkins, or large combs of tortoise-shell, of a fanciful shape. Instead of the umbrella, the more wealthy natives have a gigantic fan, made of the talipot leaf, carried to protect them from the sun; and this had a curious effect. I remarked here a handsome tree, the leaves resembling a vine in shape, but very much larger, and the colour of a brilliant dark green; and was greatly gratified by finding it the far-famed bread fruit. The fruit resembled in appearance a small jack (artocarpus integrifolia); and, though not equal to a French roll, was nearly as good, when baked or roasted, as a yam or oaten cake.

The rain prevented our driving out in the evening; a privation only understood in a tropical climate, where the heat is an insurmountable obstacle to anything like sight-seeing during the day. Next morning, however, our kind host (Mr. Twynham) lent us a conveyance, in which we took a delightful drive, partly along the sea-shore, and up to a hill where Mrs. Gibson had erected school-rooms for male and female children,—an admirable work of charity, as till then no school existed on the island. Mrs. Gibson was not only wholly unassisted at the commencement of her undertaking, but discouraged by those who, with less zeal, excused their own indolence, by expressing a belief "that nothing could be done." Nevertheless, this excellent woman persisted, till at the expiration of twenty-five years she was enabled to show how much could be accomplished. The girls perform household occupations, and are taught plain

and fancy work with their needle, and the boys are brought up to several trades. The girls are so usefully educated, that the missionaries are glad to select wives from among them for their assistants. I left Point de Galle with much regret. The scenery was so novel and so beautiful, that I would gladly have remained some days longer, particularly as, unlike regions nearer home, it was not probable that my destiny would ever lead me again—

"Beyond where Ceylon lifts her spicy breast."

The morning after our departure from Point de Galle, Adam's Peak, situated in the centre of Ceylon, was still visible from the deck, though at the estimated distance of one hundred miles. I was surprised to find that Cape Comorin, instead of being a high promontory, as I had imagined, is very low land; but the mountains in the vicinity are extremely picturesque. Those called the Ghauts are universally admired;

but had they presented a less beautiful appearance, they would still have delighted one who had so long been accustomed to the flat surface of Bengal.

Our course leading along the shore, we had, for several days, the majestic Ghauts in sight; and we beheld in succession the towns of Cochin, Tellicherry, and Quilon; and the forts of Mangalore, Gherriah, and Severndroog; and at last, at mid-day, the high land of Bombay was descried.

CHAPTER II.

Arrival at Bombay—The interest excited by the appearance of the steamer—Addresses and entertainment to Mr. Elphinstone, on his relinquishing the government—Departure from Bombay—Straits of Babel Mandeb.

THE arrival of the first steamer which had ever visited Bombay was expected with the greatest anxiety: two guns were to be fired from the ramparts on her heaving in sight, that the public might have timely notice; and at twelve o'clock the signal announced the appearance of the long looked-for Ganges. Towards sunset, on the 21st of October, one of the most delightful evenings of a tropical autumn, we approached the harbour, after a prosperous voyage of twenty-three days, without an hour of bad weather, or accident, or inconvenience of any kind. The whole population, European and native,

were in motion. The scene was truly exhilarating; the exquisite natural beauties of the harbour, the delightful serenity of the weather, the variety of vessels, the thousands of natives crowded on the shore, while the sea was covered with boats, some full of European officers in their scarlet uniforms, some laden with Parsees in their singular costume, and others swarming with the common Hindoos, Concanees, and Malabars, gave an indescribable life and brilliancy to the scene.

In the midst of this confusion of excitement, a superior kind of boat was seen approaching, and our kind friend, Mr. Elphinstone, who had come so far to welcome us, was soon on the deck of the Ganges. We then landed, and accompanied him to his country-house at Parell.

Bombay has been so fully described, that I will dismiss it with proper brevity. During our stay, we visited the island of

Salsette. The timber on it is so fine, and nature has been so liberal in bestowing every feature essential to the formation of a beautiful landscape, that I could scarcely have selected a spot which might not have been converted into an English park. A delightful drive through Goreebundeh, and Tannah, brought us to the fort and town of Basseen. Within the walls are the ruins of fourteen chapels. This is a striking place: one would think the whole town had been inhabited by monks, and depopulated by plague; a curse seems to have fallen upon it, and its only tenants are a single Sepoy, and an enormous Cobra di Capella, which is said to haunt an ancient Hindoo temple in the centre. The walls of the fort are perfect, and those of the monasteries and chapels in excellent preservation: these, with a few additions, might form handsome and substantial dwellings for the people in the neighbourhood, who now live in miserable

huts. I hear that Basseen was abandoned from the unhealthiness of its situation; one cause of which I can perfectly understand, if the fishing were carried on in its vicinity formerly as it is now: the smell was so dreadful as we passed, that I was compelled to leave the deck of the vessel, and go below. The fish when caught is strewed more than ankle deep upon the shore, where it is left to dry; and in such a climate, the mass of corruption thus engendered may well be imagined. It is an ancient privilege which the people claim of manuring the ground with fish, founded on a stipulation at the first transfer of the island from the Portuguese. Hence the governor has never interfered with it, even to protect the environs of his country-house; in consequence, the air there is often disagreeably infected.

We drove to Malabar Point, a situation which commands a full view of Bombay and its harbour. The moment I approached the

edge of the Point, and the magnificent scene broke upon my sight, I exclaimed, "This reminds me of the descriptions of Naples!" and I was then informed that the comparison had often been before made. This similarity, on reaching Naples, I was enabled to verify. Malabar Point would form a delightful residence in the hot months, were the dwelling-house anything but what it now is, literally composed of a few huts. Mr. Elphinstone was, however, so economical of the Company's funds, that he had been content to inhabit it in its present state, rather than allow the government to incur expense for his own personal comfort.

Sir John Malcolm having arrived, the 15th of November was fixed for presenting to Mr. Elphinstone the addresses of the clergy and the European and native inhabitants of Bombay, and in the evening I attended an entertainment given to him by the English society. I do not think it possible that in

any country the illuminations, the decorations of the rooms, and the arrangements altogether, could have been more elegant or splendid; suffice it to say, these were the combined production of the twelve heads best qualified as to taste and gastronomy in Bombay.

Sir John Malcolm, in a speech after supper, declared that he should be at a loss to say whether, in evincing all this enthusiasm towards Mr. Elphinstone, the society did him or themselves most honour *.

In addition to a service of plate, a picture, and a statue voted at a meeting of the European inhabitants, the compliment most congenial to Mr. Elphinstone's feelings must have been that which he received from the

* The late Bishop Heber, in his Journal of a Tour through India, has pourtrayed Mr. Elphinstone's character in a manner which all who have the happiness of knowing the latter, must recognize as eminently correct. May I be permitted thus incidentally to express my own sorrow at the loss of Bishop Heber?—but to describe the grief which pervaded all India at the death of this amiable prelate, would be as difficult as justly to depict his excellence.

natives within the presidency, of all religious denominations, who subscribed upwards of a lac of rupees, or 10,000*l.*, for one or two professorships in the native college, to be filled from England, and to be called after his name; to perpetuate, as they said, to their children's children the memory of one who had been to them a friend and a father.

We left the ball-room to embark on board the vessel on which we were to accompany Mr. Elphinstone to Cossier. Deep and universal was the sorrow his departure excited; many persons followed him to the boat, and as it left the shore, an illuminated stage, on the very verge of the pier, exhibiting the words, "Once more farewell," gave a last affecting proof of attachment and regret.

Our little vessel, the Palinurus, of 190 tons, was fitted up in the yacht style; and our party consisted of Mr. Elphinstone, Mr. Steele of the civil service, Messrs.

Wallace and Gordon of the medical department, Mr. L., and myself.

Favoured by the prevalent winds of the season, we made as much progress as the inferior sailing of our brig permitted; passed in a few days Cape Aden and the Straits of Babel Mandeb, and reached Mocha on the 1st of December.

The entrance into the Straits of Babel Mandeb afforded a sight equally unique and grand. A rush of the sea appears to have divided a bed of hard black rock, and thus to have forced a channel for itself of two or three miles in breadth. This rock rises on each side, black, barren, and cheerless; and while surveying this desolate spot, I learnt that the left shore was the island of Perim, where, during the expedition of the Indian army into Egypt, a detachment was encamped. No station could possibly be more dreary—in some places a few blades of grass endeavoured to force themselves through

the crevices of the rock; but even fresh water was brought from the Abyssinian shore, the scarcity of this most necessary article being thus added to many other privations. ⁂

CHAPTER III.

MOCHA.

The view of Mocha in the setting sun was very beautiful. The buildings, of one unvaried white, gave it the semblance of being excavated from a quarry of marble, and no tree or shrub broke the uniformity of colour. The fort is built along the shore, with a circular tower at each end, projecting into the sea; the whole forming nearly a semicircle. The contrast of the lustrous white with the dark blue sea, a colour unknown to those who have not left the coast of England, was very remarkable, and it was only on a near approach that we discovered the houses were constructed of unbaked brick, and then plastered and whitewashed. From the absence of rain the buildings retain their freshness for a length of time; but one heavy

tropical shower would wholly change the aspect of the town, and render its appearance as deplorable as it is now the reverse.

Mr. Elphinstone landed in the evening, through a tremendous sea, and proceeded immediately to the house of the Dowla, or Governor, where he was received with rude honours nearly similar to the pageantry exhibited by Indian chieftains on state occasions. I did not go on shore till the morning, at which time the wind usually moderates, and then proceeded to a small house provided for us by the Resident.

After breakfast I was present when the Dowla returned the visit Mr. Elphinstone had paid him the night before. His appearance was that of a fat native of Bengal; he was accompanied into the room by two or three Arabs, fine intelligent-looking men, and the secretary, whom I should have taken for a dull quiet lad of eighteen, had I not heard he was very clever, and was

sent from Senna as a sort of spy upon the Dowla.

Having ascertained there was no objection, I sat veiled, at the upper end of the room, during the conference; at which nothing particular passed beyond the usual ceremonies of smoking, exchanging of hookas, &c., but I observed the Arabs preferred the tea, provided by the Resident, to their own coffee.

After dinner, some Arab minstrels, armed with pistols and daggers, were introduced. Their instruments were a rude guitar, a ruder flageolet, and a common tabor. The songs were of love and war, occasionally animated, but generally the music was soft and monotonous, and the cadences at the end of the stanzas reminded me of the Spanish bolero. The guitar was played sometimes with the fingers, and sometimes with little crooked sticks.

The love-song began, as I was informed,

with a complaint to heaven of the lover's hard fortune: "O God, who restoredst the kingdom of Soolimaun, restore my peace," &c.; it next described the fair lady as "killing with a glance," and concluded with "great is the intoxication of friendship, wine, or war, but that of love is greatest." Another song was in praise of the Imaum of Senna, the liege lord of the Dowla, and Hassan, his general, victorious on a late occasion over the Bedouins. Next came a war-song, of which the following was given to me as a rude translation, obtained through the Resident's Persian interpreter. The author had been dead about four years.

He who arose in valour gains honour, and is exalted by victory;
No one names a coward, while a brave man is in the mouths of all;
A brave man's rank is the highest in every assembly;
Whatever he plans is obeyed as an order.
Valour suffices, valour alone advances;
How excellent is the word of the brave! it cuts short the speeches of the eloquent.

To-day, then, let all who think at all, think of their honour;
These are the words of truth, useless words are of no avail;
The heart which feels not ardour, no tribe will exalt to power;

Valour is patient and perseveres, it fulfils its desire upon an enemy;
Valour is the possessor of renown and virtue, and the object of all exertion;
Throughout the army, the young men look at that gun only which bears the name of a good maker.

Among the visiters at the Residency were some Indian merchants, who appeared very much out of their element. They stated, that, except on the side of the sea, the expenses, on account of carriage, guards, &c., absorbed the profits of the inland trade. It must, therefore, have been the gains of their maritime speculations which tempt them to remain, as is their practice, with scarcely any society, and unmarried, in a land obnoxious to their religious and domestic feelings. The exact nature of the trade which they exercise I could not ascertain.

The coffee bean is cultivated in the interior of the provinces, whence supplies of it are taken to Judda, for the consumption of Egypt, and the quantity required for the

European and American markets is conveyed to Mocha. The Arabs themselves, either from economy or preference, generally use an infusion made from the husk, and, judging from the indifferent specimen of the coffee made from the bean, which I drank at the Residency, this latter method of preparing it was rare, even among the higher classes. I had, of course, expected to taste coffee at Mocha in the highest perfection, and was therefore disappointed to find it of an inferior quality.

Besides coffee, dates, honey, and a few shells are articles of export; and from the coast of Aden or Abyssinia are derived supplies of grain, horses, asses, and large-tailed sheep. A good horse costs about four hundred dollars. Slaves also are procured from that coast. Some of its inhabitants, called Somalees, were then at Mocha; they are, of course, very black, with the usual thick lip, but tall and well made. One

of them wore, with perfect gravity, an immense wig of brown wool; others had their own hair highly frizzed and whitened with a kind of powder.

Vegetables are grown round the town; and fruits, especially grapes, are brought in the summer season from Senna and the interior. The date-tree requires watering, and lasts about twenty years.

The Wahabees, once so notorious, had, it was reported, merged into other tribes, and ceased to profess the heretical opinions which had caused so much bloodshed.

There are twelve schools in Mocha; and it was said that, inland, near Senna, there were several colleges, where the twelve branches of Mahomedan sciences are taught, as usual in Turkey and India.

The Arab women marry about the age of sixteen. They are allowed great liberty, visiting each other till late at night without interruption; indeed, being in company with

a female is considered by the Arabs as the best protection. A woman is enabled to divorce her husband on very slight grounds; a bad temper on his part is a sufficient reason; and if no serious offence can be proved against the wife, she is entitled to receive back her dower. Every lady, when she visits, carries on her arm a little bag of coffee; this is boiled at the house where she spends the evening, thus enabling her to enjoy society without putting her friend to expense.

The Arab troops seemed very disorderly. They wore turbans, dirks, swords, and fire-arms. They had a curious method of walking, supporting each other four abreast, and each resting the hand on the other's shoulder. As I saw them swagger, or rather reel along, I could scarcely imagine them to be the warlike soldiers they are described. The people in the streets were inoffensive, and allowed me to walk without molestation,

when there might have been some excuse for a rude indulgence of their curiosity, as only two European ladies had ever been seen at Mocha before. Were an Arabian female, in full costume, to make her appearance in Hyde Park, I suspect she would not have to speak so favourably of the courtesy of John Bull.

A short time before our arrival, during a tumult which took place in the town, a member of the Residency shot a Turk at the moment of his breaking into the house and aiming a pistol at one of the servants. This act of resolution, combined with the judicious conduct of the Resident, might have conduced to the estimation in which the British were then held; for, a few years back, a Christian could scarcely appear in the streets without being spit upon. The Turks vowed vengeance on Mr. ———, and, in the emphatic language of the country, sent him word that his grave was dug; but,

though the threat was not much regarded, the gentleman was persuaded, after keeping on the alert for some days, to leave Mocha. No blame, however, could be attached to him, as he shot the man in self-defence. The Arabs took no part in the fray, preferring even the infidels to the Turks.

The day after we landed, arrived an Arab ship with some British officers, bent on the same expedition as ourselves. She got on shore, and by the mismanagement of the captain it was thought she would have been stranded. A hundred Indian pilgrims, men, women, and children, were on board, and the scene of confusion, as related to me, cannot be imagined. It is supposed that not a hundred out of the many thousands of the miserable wretches, who annually visit Mecca, ever return, multitudes perishing by the way from famine and fatigue.

Numbers of these people pressed upon us on the quay, looking squalid and poor. We

thought they were part of the population of the town, and it was not till we had again embarked that we heard they were the pilgrims. Perhaps it was as well, for had we given them money, they probably would have fought for it among themselves, have been punished for the disturbance, and have had to resign to the Dowla's myrmidons any trifle they might have obtained.

While some of the gentlemen rode into the country, I remained on the terrace of the Resident's house, watching the setting sun, and the moon at the same time nearly at its full. The town formed one mass of white. The façades and cornices of the houses were varied in every shape of fretwork and arabesque. The terraces of each building, as white and as fresh as the walls, with little verandahs closed, or open, in many fantastic patterns—the sea calm near the shore, (the colour varying on the different shoals,) and a little farther, curling and glit-

tering in the sun, and then, as it were, in the paler light of the moon—a grove of green dates on one side, and the curious bee-hive shaped huts of the Bedouins and Jews on the other, formed altogether a novel and charming scene. I was forcibly struck with the extreme stillness, interrupted only by the muezzin calling to prayers, and the tinkling of a few bells on the trappings of the horses, as our party returned from their ride. I saw not a creature on the terraces, nor one at the windows or loop-holes. On entering the harbour, I had remarked that the city appeared destitute of inhabitants; and at this moment, as I cast my eyes around, I felt the impression still more strongly.

Mountains, woods, rivers, and seas, are, to the general reader, no more than high ground, trees and water; beautiful certainly, but conveying still the same ideas. To the spectator, each of these objects presents itself under numerous different aspects; and if the

reader be an experienced traveller and an observer of nature, he may, perhaps, be able to imagine some of the beauty which is intended to be expressed by a narrator. But the difficulty of accurately communicating to others one's own notions of scenery particularly struck me on beholding the hills and mountains behind the town; they were picturesque, but merely so from the variety of their form, and the curious undulation on every ridge. I do not think, however, any description would have enabled me to form a conception of the three ranges of hills which were then before my eyes. Thunder and lightning, and rain in torrents, occur frequently on these hills: the two former never reach the town, and seldom the latter. How perpetually during the hot season must its inhabitants be tantalized with a view of these refreshing streams, while they are smothered with dust, and the thermometer never lower than 78°! It seldom, however, rises above

84°. The dust, indeed, is so distressing, that even at the favourable season my eyes suffered; and I heard several of the gentlemen on board the ship complaining of its effects, though we were at anchor a considerable distance from the shore.

On the whole, however, I was much pleased with Mocha. Had not my friends been of the same opinion, I might have doubted my own taste; for all previous travellers had viewed the place in a far different light, and had given me such an unfavourable impression of it, that at first I had not wished even to land, and I should thus have been deprived of a great gratification.

CHAPTER IV.

Voyage up the Red Sea—Dangers of the navigation—Discovery of a new Shoal—Arrival at Cosseir.

On leaving Mocha, we received another passenger, Lieut. McMahon, of the 87th regiment. He brought with him, as an attendant, an old Chinaman, thus adding a new language to the already numerous jargons prevalent on board, which now consisted of Italian, Portuguese, Hindoostanee, Arabic, Persian, Chinese, and Abyssinian; and the horrible confusion of tongues may easily be imagined, when these men quarrelled and abused each other, in all the variety of their respective dialects:

> Diverse lingue, orribili favelle,
> Parole di dolore, accenti d' ira,
> Voci alte e fioche, *e suon di man con elle*,
> Facevano un tumulto,

This, however, was an annoyance necessarily tolerated, as it is difficult to procure in India servants properly qualified, especially as interpreters, to perform such a journey.

We passed our time very pleasantly in the Red Sea, most of us being closely occupied in acquiring knowledge of the countries which we were so eager to explore. In the morning, regular lectures on Italian were held on deck; and after tea, one of the party read out portions of Turkish history, till it was time to retire to rest.

The wind was tolerably fair till we reached the latitude of St. John's the point at which all mariners expect to be baffled, and where they are seldom wrong in their expectations. We had fifteen journals on board, which all spoke of storm and tempest from St. John's to Cosseir. In consequence, we were daily and nightly prepared for bad weather. The

least puff of wind more than ordinary caused the dead lights to be put in; and in truth these precautions, though troublesome, were necessary—for about this position the danger becomes most frequent just as the wind becomes most adverse.

Lascars were stationed at night on the forecastle and on the gangways, to look out for shoals, and every half hour exclaimed to each other, "Khoob dekh augil," (Keep a good look-out forward;)—but I apprehend that, with the characteristic apathy of the natives of Bengal, who are generally fatalists, they answered, like Baron Trenck, in their sleep, and that our security was in the remoteness of the shoals, not in their vigilance.

The captain and officers were, I believe, as anxious as myself, the Red Sea being but imperfectly surveyed: for instance, after it was supposed we had passed a

notorious reef more than once, while beating about against a foul wind, we beheld it somewhat unexpectedly; and on the 18th of December, the uncertainty of the navigation was still further evinced by the discovery of a dangerous shoal close to us, which was not mentioned on the chart. At half-past three, while we were at dinner, breakers were reported from the mast-head, and at four they were visible from the deck, at the distance of one mile. We went between this reef and the shore; but towards night, the breeze diminishing, we stood to the southward to round the shoal, not being able to get to windward of it. We were soon becalmed, and it was impossible to anchor, from the great depth of water. Hence our position became very precarious, being at one time within half a mile of the shoal, the breakers on which we heard occasionally; and on drifting away from it, we came within

reach of the sound of those on the shore side*. Truly thankful was I when a slight breeze extricated us from our perilous situation †.

After ten days more buffeting against our old enemy, the north-east wind, we reached Cosseir on the 26th of December, having made a passage of twenty-three days from Mocha, and thirty-nine from Bombay ‡.

The appearance of Cosseir is unpromising; the hills, houses, and sands, are all of

* Whoever gave the name of Palinurus to our pilot vessel, must either have imperfectly remembered his Virgil, or not regarded the superstition of seamen. The lines

O nimium cœlo et pelago confise sereno,
Nudus in ignota, Palinure, jacebis, arena,

were, as may be supposed, frequently quoted on board, and their application to our situation, when so near this shoal, was not forgotten.

† As this shoal was not laid down in any chart, nor mentioned by Horsburgh, Captain Denton took its bearings carefully, and named it the Elphinstone reef. The following particulars regarding it are taken from the ship's log book: long. 34° 53′ E., lat. 25° 20′ N. It is about one mile in length N. N. W. and E. S. E., distant from the Egyptian shore about three leagues. It is steep, and at a distance of half a mile no ground at one hundred fathoms.

‡ Count de Noé asserts, that Sir Home Popham made the passage from Calcutta to Suez in less than twenty-two days.—*Mémoires relatifs à l'Expédition Anglaise, &c., par le Comte de Noé*, page 133.

the same colour. The houses are mostly in the form of public ovens, small and wretched in the extreme. Some of the gentlemen said they could fancy themselves in the Dekkan, the aspect of the buildings being so exactly similar. The officer next in rank to the Effendi came on board as soon as we anchored, and brought a civil message from the latter to Mr. Elphinstone. The Turk accepted a glass of brandy, and on his departure received a present of six bottles of it for the honour of the faith! As he said the horses and mules, which were to have been sent from Cairo, had not arrived, we feared something untoward had happened, and were sorry to learn that it was the death of Mr. Salt which had caused the disappointment. We had relied so much on experiencing from him the kindness which he invariably shewed to travellers, that this alone would have made us regret his death; but, in addition, we heard rumours of the unsettled state of affairs between Great Britain and the Turks, which

might interrupt our progress, and we naturally depended on him for advice and assistance.

Early the next morning Mr. Elphinstone and the other gentlemen called on the Effendi, who received them courteously in the upper room of a miserable mud hut, (the best house in the place,) but nothing occurred beyond the usual ceremonies. The next morning the Effendi walked to the tents to return Mr. Elphinstone's visit. After some conversation, he imparted to him, in an under tone, the intelligence of the battle of Navarino, adding—"Please God, friendship will yet continue with the English." It was impossible to be more civil; he told Mr. Elphinstone "he was in a desert, and could furnish but little on earth; yet if he wanted anything from Heaven, he would go there to fetch it." Then assuring Mr. Elphinstone that the Pasha had ordered everything to be provided for the party, his Excellency begged a bag of potatoes, and took his leave.

On landing, I found our tents pitched, and everything within them as comfortable as I could have wished—not so without, for we were on a barren plain, close to the town, surrounded by the dead carcasses of camels, asses, and goats, and in the midst of all kinds of filth. The perpetual barking of the ferocious Egyptian dogs, one of which made its way into the outer tent, and drank up a bucket of water, my next day's allowance, the strangeness and novelty of the situation, the anticipation of what might be our future lot, and some vague thoughts that my destination might be the Seven Towers, prevented my sleeping; and notwithstanding illness and fatigue, I was glad to rise at five o'clock; indeed, in spite of the coldness of the mornings, I found it necessary, during the whole journey across the desert, to leave my bed even before that hour.

CHAPTER V.

Preparations for the journey across the Desert—Tukhte Rowan—Exhilarating climate—Entertainment on New Year's Day in the Desert—Surprise at unexpectedly seeing Carnac—Tranquil encampment at Luxor.

Some time elapsed before so large a party as ours could be accommodated with camels; they were procurable in any number, though they could not be collected without a little delay. They were white and black, besides the usual dun colour. I may here remark, that the distinction between dromedary and camel is no further known in Egypt, than that the former is used for the purposes of riding and despatch, the latter for the conveyance of burthens.

Our cavalcade consisted of ninety-six camels, besides many asses,—no great number, when it is to be recollected we carried with us tents, clothes, wine, water, and pro-

visions. The Captain, and one of the officers of the Palinurus, had joined our party, and with them several Lascars, who were of great use in pitching our tents, &c. &c.

For Mr. L., myself, and two servants, we had twenty-two camels and three donkeys. I was to travel in a covered litter, called a *Tukhte rowan*, somewhat resembling a Sicilian lettiga: this was made at Bombay of the strongest possible materials, and, in consequence of its weight and size, it was necessary to employ the largest and tallest camels for its conveyance. The machine, from its height, presented a formidable appearance, being raised six feet above the ground; and I had to ascend to it by a ladder, which, from the unsteadiness of the camels, was rather a difficult undertaking.

The Arabs having lashed the trunks after their own method, to my astonishment I found myself in actual progress about noon on the 28th. But, without Mr. Elphinstone's servant,

Antonio, and the additional assistance of Mr. Porter, the officer of the Palinurus, I think I might have been in the Desert still. The concourse of people, the roaring of the camels, the vociferation of the servants and Lascars, in their vain endeavours to make the Arabs understand and move—(and, as usual, the less they could make them understand the louder they bawled)—one camel rising with half its load, another throwing down the whole of his, others making off altogether—every driver secreting as much of the cord that was given him as he could hide, snatching from the man next to him the quantity required,—the combat that ensued, the one universal clamour for *bucksees,* their struggle against each other to obtain it,—presented a scene of confusion and uproar which, though to the gentlemen, from its strangeness, might prove amusing, to me was somewhat alarm-

ing, particularly as I was, for a short time, left alone with the drivers.

My interpreter, who was a Darfour man, and who professed to understand Hindoostanee, could not comprehend one word I said to him, which increased my discomfort. At this moment my tukhte rowan was assailed by five or six dancing girls, called Almehs. I immediately lowered the silk blind, which, however, I thought they would have torn off in the same clamour and struggle for *bucksees*. I could not help seeing them as I strove to keep down the curtain; and it was impossible to behold them without disgust. Their countenances appeared inflamed by drinking, their persons were greatly exposed, and altogether they more resembled common robust English women under the influence of liquor, rather than what I had fancied of the delicate and elegant Egyptian females. They wore the same full petticoat as the nautch girls of

India. I may seem capriciously affected by the customs of the inhabitants amongst whom I travelled, but to me these women appeared doubly bold and degraded from the absence of the veil. It is so entirely contrary to the prejudices of the country for a female to appear without it, that the lowest peasant's wife will not allow any one to pass without drawing her muffler of coarse blue cloth closer round her face; and to expose it thus must be the height of abandonment.

"In the tukhte rowan," says Hajji Baba, "when the mules take to trotting, or when the one proceeds willingly and the other refuses to go except by beating, the sufferer in the cage between both undergoes strange motions." The motion, at times, in the camel tukhte rowan, was so violent that it put me to great pain. I was the more surprised at this, as on first setting off the animals stepped well together, and we moved on most comfortably. Every half hour I had to complain, and Mr. Porter, the officer

before alluded to, kindly "new-rigged the tackling," as he phrased it. It was at last discovered by mere accident, that as soon as the drivers thought they could do so without detection, they slipped off part of the cord harness which kept the litter steady, although they saw how much I suffered; yet, for the sake of this trifling acquisition, they would have harassed me during the whole journey. The next morning, one of the same Arabs harnessed a vicious camel to the tukhte rowan;—away flew my litter over the plain, fortunately without me, and was with difficulty recovered; and then, while the camels were in this unsteady state, I was hoisted in at the door in a very unceremonious manner, my ladder having been forgotten in the confusion.

The whole business required some courage, as owing to the delay I was left nearly alone, and was fearful of being benighted. This, however, was the last of my disasters; for I found, on my arrival at the

halting ground, that the delinquent had been reformed by a bastinado, inflicted by the Chioush* who attended us,—the usual Turkish recipe for all misdemeanours.

My maid was placed the first two days in a sort of basket with a hood, fastened on the back of a camel, but, though well padded, she found the motion so severe that she was glad to descend, and she performed the rest of the journey, with perfect ease, on a donkey. The gentlemen, also, except two, having tried the camels, preferred this humble conveyance, walking and halting as they felt inclined. Indeed, were I to undertake the journey again, I should dispense with the tukhte rowan, and adopt this mode of travelling.

Though much variety of country or occurrence cannot be expected in the Desert, I

* This Chioush (the term substituted for Janissary) was deputed by the Effendi at Cossier to accompany us: though a stupid Turk, and a marvellous lover of brandy, his presence, with his wand of office, kept the whole of the Arabs in order, and procured us all that we required.

may say, with truth, that the passage through it was to me very interesting and agreeable. For the first three stages the road was diversified by some inequalities of ground and remarkable passes through the rocky mountains; but the course of our journey, in general, lay through an arid plain of sand and stones, about two or three miles in breadth, bounded by rocks of sandstone of an almost uniform appearance. On the second day's march I saw one or two trees; and the road was so varied, that I could then scarcely believe myself in a Desert, which I had always pictured to my imagination as a dreary and interminable plain, with heavy loose sand curled into clouds by every breath of wind.

Our second place of encampment was truly singular, our tents being pitched in a sort of circus, about two miles in extent, completely closed in (except at two passages) by rugged mountains, part of which rose above our heads almost perpendicularly.

I left my bed before daylight, when the whole camp was buried in sleep, and indulged my astonishment at the novel spectacle of tents surrounded by numerous camels, with their drivers and burthens, ranged in a circle, according to the position of their respective masters. I wondered to find myself thus tranquilly situated in the Desert, whose difficulties had been so magnified; and I looked up to the canopy of stars, the view of which was so remarkably bounded by the belt of mountains, with feelings which I shall not now attempt to recall in their original intenseness.

I cannot imagine that any climate in the world can excel that of the Desert at the season we crossed it. I never found the heat of the sun injurious, nor did any of the gentlemen of the party, who were exposed to it many hours each day. The air was so bracing, that although I had caught a severe cold the day of my arrival at Cosseir, which caused acute pain in my face,

and ended in an abscess, yet I felt the fatigue of being so long on the road, the want of sleep, and the labour of packing, &c. less than I should an evening's drive in a carriage in the hot weather in India.

Anniversaries passed in strange countries, and at a long distance from home, are generally celebrated by travellers with extraordinary zest and cordiality; and though I am apprehensive of being considered tedious in dwelling upon what indifferent persons may deem uninteresting, yet I will venture to describe the fête which Mr. Elphinstone gave us on New-year's-day, 1828. Ill as I was, and fatigued by pain rather than the journey, I wished on this day to join the gentlemen in the dinner tent; and I confess I was amused by the contrast of the narrative which I had been reading with the appearance of the table and party before me. The author of the book in question described the delight of the traveller on arriving at the wells where we were then encamped,

and his satisfaction, after all his privations, at quenching his thirst with plenty of water; and, in short, would have impressed us with the notion that the Desert he had passed, and in which we then were, was such a one as depicted by Burckhardt, abounding in sand, hunger, and thirst.—But, behold our party, consisting of ten persons, sitting in a comfortable tent lined with yellow baize, and cheerfully lighted up; a clean table-cloth, and the following bill of fare:—roast turkey, ham, fowls, mutton in various shapes, curry, rice, and potatoes, damson tart, and a pudding; madeira, claret, sherry, port, and Hodgson's beer: For the dessert, Lemann's biscuits, almonds and raisins, water-melons, pumplenose (or shaddock), and a plumcake as a finale!

What astonished me, was the ease with which the whole arrangement of our meals was conducted; however, I believe this was principally to be attributed to the skilful superintendence of Mr. Elphinstone's head

servant, Antonio. He was active and strong; a good tailor, and a good cook; speaking a little of most languages, but being master of Arabic, French, and Italian. He mended my harness like a practised sadler; and, in short, could do anything and everything as it was required. The cook, dining tent, and apparatus, were sent forward early in the morning, before we started ourselves, and at six in the evening our dinner was ready.

While traversing the Desert we met numerous droves of camels, the Arabs belonging to which offered us for sale grapes, dates, water-melons, and ready-boiled hard eggs. Every person was so inoffensive, that, after the first day, the gentlemen laid aside their arms as useless incumbrances, and travelled with such perfect security, that individuals were occasionally separated from the caravan without any fear of molestation.

We did not gain a sight of the fertile coun-

try and of the Nile till about twelve or fifteen miles from Legayta, just before our arrival at Hujaza, the next stage to Luxor*; but the contrast with the Desert did not appear to me very striking. This part of the journey, though interesting, afforded little of novelty, as the face of the country resembled so much that on the banks of the Ganges. Indeed, but for the curious method of my own conveyance, and the road, which was a causeway raised above the inundation, and crowded with camels, I could have scarcely believed I was not in India. The date-groves, at a little distance, were perfectly similar to topes of cocoa-nut trees. The young wheat was of a brilliant pomona green, interspersed with the dried-up stubble of the preceding crop. There were also fields of sugar-cane and Indian corn, and little water-courses, for irrigation, winding in every direction. The wheel used for this purpose, turned by oxen,

* A note of the stages in the Desert, and of the time occupied in performing them, will be found in the Appendix *A*.

was in perpetual motion. It had small pots attached to it which raised up the water, and as the wheel revolved, threw it into the channels above noticed. It was curious to hear the noise of these wheels, which made a constant creaking like the singing of crickets, not disagreeable, and which never ceased by day or by night. I observed the same at Bombay. The plough, also, is quite Indian.

The day was particularly fine, and the first sight of the numerous cattle, so truly English, caused me a sensation of joy which those only can appreciate who have long been absent from home. I was never tired of looking at, and admiring, these beautiful cows, each of which would have been worth forty or fifty pounds in Calcutta. They were of a fine black and white or bay colour;—how unlike the little miserable, half-starved, dirty-white animals of Bengal, with humps on their necks!

We met many Turks, their horses gaily

caparisoned, some with four or five pistols stuck in their girdles, all with a martial air, but perfectly civil, yet forming a great contrast to the simplicity of our quiet, unarmed Englishmen.

While I was leisurely travelling along, thinking only of our arrival at Luxor, one of the party who had preceded us, called to me from a rising ground to turn to the left, and having gone a few hundred yards off the road, I beheld, unexpectedly, the temple of Carnac. It was long after I reached my tent ere I recovered from the bewilderment into which the view of these stupendous ruins had thrown me. No one, who has not seen them, can understand the awe and admiration they excite even in unscientific beholders. When I compare the descriptions of Denon and Hamilton*, I find them essentially correct, yet without giving me any adequate idea of the glorious reality. They fail in describing what never has been, and

* See Appendix B.

what I think never can be, described.—No words can impart a conception of the profusion of pillars, standing, prostrate, inclining against each other, broken and whole. Stones of a gigantic size, propped up by pillars, and pillars again resting upon stones, which appear ready to crush the gazer under their sudden fall; yet, on a second view, he is convinced nothing but an earthquake could move them; all these pillars, covered with sculpture, perhaps three thousand years old, though fresh as if finished but yesterday, not of grotesque and hideous objects, such as we are accustomed to associate with ideas of Egyptian mythology, but many of the figures of gods, warriors, and horses, much larger than life, yet exhibiting surpassing beauty and grace*. As

* Denon observes, "On est fatigué d'écrire, on est fatigué de lire, on est épouvanté de la pensée d'une telle conception; on ne peut croire même, après l'avoir vu, à la réalité de l'existence de tant de constructions réunies sur un même point, à leur dimension, à la constance obstinée qu'a exigée leur fabrication, aux dépenses incalculables de tant de somptuosité." M. Champollion, also, in a letter, a translation of which has recently been published in the

I had seen none but English and Welsh ruins, and some of the caves at Elephanta and Salsette, I might have doubted my own judgment, had I not found every one else, learned and unlearned, struck with the same admiration. Some of the gentlemen returned to view Carnac at night. I was too unwell to partake of this pleasure. They all came back highly gratified, observing that the detached ruins derived advantage from the moonlight, though the temple itself could

Literary Gazette, thus adverts to the indescribable grandeur of Carnac:—"I at length went to the palace, or rather, the city of monuments at Karnac: I here beheld all the magnificence of the Pharaohs, the grandest productions ever conceived and executed by man. All that I had seen at Thebes, all that I had admired with enthusiasm on the left bank, appeared miserable in comparison with the gigantic conceptions with which I was surrounded. I shall take care not to attempt to describe anything; for either my description would not express a thousandth part of what ought to be said when speaking of such objects; or, if I drew a faint sketch of them, I should be taken for an enthusiast, or perhaps for a madman. It will suffice to add, that no people, either ancient or modern, ever conceived the art of architecture on so sublime and so grand a scale as the ancient Egyptians: their conceptions were those of men a hundred feet high; and the imagination, which in Europe rises far above our porticos, sinks abashed at the foot of the hundred and forty columns of the Hypostyle Hall of Karnac."

not be seen with sufficient distinctness. One only of the four obelisks, mentioned by Pococke, is now standing; it is not equal to either of the two at Luxor, which are the most perfect in the world.

Our tents were pitched under the walls of Luxor, close to the banks of the Nile. The sight of the few boats on the peaceful waters,—our own encampment,—the contented appearance of the camels, which had thrown off their loads, and were luxuriating on the fresh herbage,—and of their drivers, who knew they were to have one or two days' rest, and had a reward in prospect,—composed as cheerful a scene as well can be imagined, and imparted a sensation of tranquillity and repose quite refreshing to a weary traveller like myself.

The houses at Luxor are built with sun-burnt bricks and baked clay pipes; and, about three or four feet from the top, branches of trees are inserted, either to bind the structure, or to accommodate the

pigeons, which flock to the town in myriads, and perching on these branches, add to the curious appearance of the place. The walls are battlemented, and in the port-holes are piled up six clay pipes, (ₒ°ₒ°ₒ) which, at a distance, have the appearance of small cannon. On the very top of the parapet circular pots are placed, which, also viewed from afar, looked like so many men's heads; so that when I first discovered the town, it seemed to me that all its inhabitants had mounted the roofs of their houses to see us. The pigeons of the country belong to no particular proprietors, but are not destroyed, in consequence of the manure which they produce. Some time ago an English traveller, ignorant of the value attached to these birds, having killed one with his gun, was maltreated and wounded by the people of the village. It was remarkable to see the miserable mud huts of the moderns built on some of the magnificent pillars of the ancient city.

CHAPTER VI.

Crossed the Nile—Encampment near Goornoo—Visit to the Tombs of the Kings—Memnonium—Medinet Haboo—Colossal Statues.

THE next day, having crossed the river, I mounted my donkey, and, in company with Mr. Wilkinson, who had resided several years in Egypt, employed in scientific pursuits, visited the Tombs of the Kings at Biban ool Moolk. Candles being lighted, we descended first into the tomb discovered by Belzoni, and called by him that of Psammis.

I suffered greatly from oppression at first entering,—as much, perhaps, from fear, as from the closeness of the air,—and returned after proceeding some way. Another party, however, descending, inspired me with more courage, and I made a second attempt:

"Mi mise dentro alle secrete cose."

The uncomfortable sensation, arising from the lowness of the roof, and being under

ground, decreased as I advanced, and as the beauty and wonder of the place soon banished every feeling but curiosity, I was enabled to enjoy all its strange and novel sights without qualification.

The paintings, with colours as vivid as those of any modern artists;—and the engravings, in alto and basso-relievo, in perfect preservation, did not delight me so much as an unfinished chamber, the walls of which were covered with drawings previously to their being cut in the stone. These were mere outlines in black or red, but sketched with such boldness and lightness, that the more I looked the more I admired. Scarcely yet can I believe the hand that traced them to have been dead so many centuries. Many of the figures are as large as life, and though mere outlines, wrought with as much expression as a finished painting. Flaxman's illustrations may serve to give an idea of the sort of thing in miniature; but I doubt whether even

these must not yield in spirit and grace to the Egyptian composition.

After leaving this tomb, we visited that opened so long ago by Bruce, supposed to be the tomb of Ramses III.; it was also exceedingly curious, and in tolerable preservation. The whole of the walls are covered with paintings; and there I beheld tables, chairs and sideboards, patterns of embossed silk and chintz, drapery with folds and fringe, precisely as an upholsterer would have fitted up a room when Egyptian furniture was in vogue. Indeed, it was an amusement to us all when I discovered some patterns exactly similar to those which I had sent, only seven years before, to a gentleman of our party.

Of the Harpers, mentioned by Bruce, one is almost defaced; and the other, I fear, will not last long; but they interested me as shewing the antiquity of the instrument on which they are represented to be playing.

Mr. Wilkinson told me, that the destruction

which we had observed in Belzoni's tomb, and which was evinced by large fragments lying on the ground, had taken place within three months of our visit.

No book could better have pourtrayed the usages of the Egyptians than these tombs. Everything is described:—in one chamber, preparing and dressing the meat, boiling the cauldron, making the bread, lighting the fire, fetching water. Another chamber presents scenes in a garden, a boy being beaten for stealing fruit, a canal, pleasure-boats, fruit, flowers, the process of various arts, such as sculpturing, painting, mixing colours, &c. Here most of the people are standing at their work, while in India, the gardener, painter, sculptor, blacksmith, cook, all sit. They do not plough the ground sitting, but I think they would if they could.

After seeing two more tombs, I was compelled to return home from fatigue. The gentlemen remained exploring till a late hour, but I could not gather from their con-

versation that they had met with any novelties *.

In order to avoid the importunity of the town's-people, we removed the next day across the Nile, and encamped on a quiet spot, close to the banks of the river, commanding a fine view of Luxor, Carnac, Goornoo, (the great repository of the dead,) the Memnonium, Medinet Haboo, and the two colossal statues seated on the plain, like brother genii, in solitary grandeur.

These two statues seem to have formed the side pillars, or entrance, of some enormous gateway. I understand the learned are much puzzled to discover which of the two is the one from which the sound is said to have proceeded every morning at sunrise; but I, who do not enter deeply into these discussions, am content to believe the vocal Memnon to be that which bears so many Greek inscriptions on its foot, stating that certain persons had heard the

* See Appendix C.

sounds, and specifying the day and the hour on which the prodigy took place. Unless these names be considered as fabrications, I do not perceive how the doubt could have arisen*.

While viewing these two statues one morning, the sight of a gentleman-like looking Turk coming towards us (Turks are seldom to be seen in such a lonely place as we were then in) surprised me a good deal. He made the usual Mahomedan salutations, and I was for the moment startled at hearing him address us in good English. The enigma, however, was soon solved, when the stranger introduced himself as Major Temple, of the 15th Hussars, lately returned from Nubia. He, with Mr. Wilkinson, who was also attired in a Turkish dress, had fitted up two tombs, in one of the Goornoo mountains, for their residence. The Turkish garb may command some respect among the Arabs of Upper Egypt, but

* See Appendix D.

certainly has not the same effect in the lower provinces, where the English and French nations are so much esteemed, that a Frank dress is considered the best protection.

The villagers in our vicinity, and who chiefly live in the caves of Goornoo, had a wild and resolute appearance. Every man was at this time armed with a spear, to resist, it was said, the compulsory levies of the Pasha, who found it vain to attack them in their fastnesses. I, who was so delighted with the beauty and peace of our new abode, felt quite disturbed to discover that the very spot where we were encamped had, four years before, witnessed the massacre of many hundreds of Arabs, then in resistance against this recruiting system, and who were blown from guns, or shot, while endeavouring to make their escape by swimming across the river. The poor people around, however, behaved with civility to us, and I felt no apprehension at going among them with a single companion, or even alone. To be sure,

we were obliged to take especial care of our property, for which purpose the chief of Luxor assisted us, by furnishing half a dozen men to watch by night round the encampment. Nevertheless, once after I had gone to sleep, I was awakened by the extinguishing of the light, and felt my little camp bed raised up by a man creeping underneath; he fled on my crying out, and escaped the pursuit as he had the vigilance, of our six protectors.

I was greatly delighted with the temple of Medinet Haboo. A detention of some days, on account of boats, gave us ample time to expatiate among these glorious sights; but I grieved to observe, on comparing them with the descriptions of Hamilton and Denon, how much mischief had been done to all these ruins within the last twenty years. Of the eight statues at Medinet Haboo, mentioned by the former, I could not, on my first visit, discover a vestige. His explanations of the battle and hunting scenes are so much in detail, that but for the real beauty

and magnificence of the whole, I should have felt some disappointment from finding that, owing to the recent dilapidations, I could seldom, after a minute inspection with his book in my hand, make out anything like a connected story.

On a subsequent visit to Medinet Haboo*, I discovered one of the statues above adverted to. They appear, by this relic, to have been of the same form (and had, in a like manner, the arms crossed over the chest) with those of the Memnonium. The circumstance of this statue being built up is likely to ensure its preservation, for it is perfectly hid from the view of any one standing in the court, by the wall in which it is inclosed.

Notwithstanding the great pains taken by Cambyses to destroy these temples, and he left 25,000 men behind him for this purpose, the sculpture is so superabundant, that much remains uninjured. In many places the outlines of the figures, which are cut in

* See Appendix E.

granite, two or three inches deep, have been filled up with mud; and this, when dislodged with a small stick, shewed the colours underneath in vivid preservation. I considered even this slight act an approach to profanation, but one of the gentlemen at this time of our party, imbued with a far different spirit, would, but for my remonstrance, have broken off, with sacrilegious hand, a fragment from the vocal Memnon; and another, in the same manner, while crossing the desert, threw stones into the well at Legayta, to ascertain its depth; not recollecting that if every traveller adopted the same mode of measurement, little water would remain for the thirsty wanderer, less plentifully supplied than ourselves.

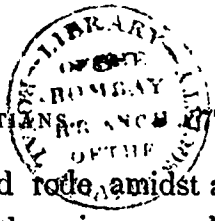
I need say little of Ebek, and the Memnonium*, which already have been so well and so frequently described by others. Smitten with the superior grandeur of Carnac, I had visited the Memnonium several times

* See Appendix F. and G.

before I would admit its temple to any share of my admiration, or do justice to its beauty, for the sculpture on it is in singular perfection. I was at first more occupied in wondering at the cut and graven stones, great and small, which lay scattered on the ground; huge blocks of granite, inscribed with hieroglyphics, and bearing marks of having once formed sphinxes, obelisks, pillars, &c. The large mutilated statue, called by the French the Memnon*, is really stupendous, and I would have fain learned how such a block could have been removed, how it could have been chiselled, (for it is supposed the Egyptians had no iron tools,) and how it could have been put up. The fragments (for I must call them such, though the smallest is large enough to form a statue for our pigmy ideas) still retain a fine polish, and will probably remain as land marks long after the buildings in the vicinity have disappeared.

This country must be different from any

* See Appendix H.



other. We here lived and rode amidst a city of the dead; and from the ruins around, so much larger than life, both in the human and animal form, I could scarcely believe the former race of inhabitants not to have been of a mightier stature, and of a nature superior to our own; yet are we assured that these very people "cut off their hair upon the death of a dog, and shaved their eyebrows for a dead cat *."

* Bryant's Ancient Mythology, vol. i. p. 379. Nothing certainly can be more ludicrous than the practice quoted in the text; but some good customs seem to have originated with the ancient Egyptians, for it is mentioned in an old translation of Diodorus Siculus, that "King Mæris gave his wife the produce of a lake to buy her pins!"

CHAPTER VII.

Detention at Thebes—Departure of the Gentlemen for Edfoo—Arrival of a deputation of Turks from Kennah—Their astonishment at seeing a Lady write—The Author witnesses the opening of a Mummy.

HAVING been thus detained a fortnight at Thebes, I was enabled to visit its various antiquities at perfect leisure. The colossal statues became like old friends, between which we used to sit down and take our refreshment, enjoying the heavenly climate; and, while repeatedly examining the majestic Carnac, we gratified our imaginations by reposing in the hall of Sesostris.

The detention, as I have before mentioned, was occasioned by the want of boats. We arrived at the time of the conscription, when every vessel was pressed for the conveyance of the recruits; and the boats sent up to us having shared the same fate, most of the gentlemen took advantage of this delay

to visit Esneh and Edfoo, in a cangia belonging to Mr. Wilkinson, so small that it could not afford me accommodation also. Denon had given such an inviting description of these temples, that I regretted this disappointment greatly; and my heart failed a little when I saw my friends depart and leave me nearly alone, for the tent of the only gentleman who remained was pitched so far from mine, that I felt almost without protection. Besides, as evening shut in, the wildness of the country, and the men by whom I was surrounded, rendered my situation somewhat lonely; but, with returning light, returned my usual cheerfulness; and while planning an excursion for the day, I perceived a party of Turks land from a handsome boat, decorated with streamers: altogether it was the gayest *set out* I had seen since I arrived in Egypt; and on inquiring the reason of such an invasion of our peaceful camp, it proved to be a deputation from the Cacheef of Kennah, with letters, and a

long complimentary message to Mr. Elphinstone. The difficulty, however, was how to convey these, and when arrived at their destination, what would be their utility, as they were in the Turkish language, and the gentlemen had taken no interpreter on their excursion. At last, after a consultation with Antonio, it was agreed that I, being the only scribe then in camp, the letter and message should be explained to me, that I might communicate them to Mr. Elphinstone.—Accordingly, having put on my veil, accompanied by Antonio, and encompassed with all the state I could summon, I entered the tent where four Turks and a Greek lad were sitting. They did not attempt to rise, but regarded me with their usual imperturbable countenances. The letter was opened in due form, and, with the message, was translated from Turkish into Arabic by the young Greek, (for the Turks, as usual, could not read,) and then explained to me in Italian by Antonio, when, after much writing, folding, sealing, and

directing, I despatched my letter, amusing myself during the whole process, which I purposely protracted, with the astonishment which I knew I created—and so it proved: for though these grave Musselmen did not betray their wonder at the time, they subsequently inquired whether other Frank ladies were so accomplished, as to read, write, fold, and seal; marvelling that, while their own women could not even talk sense, an unbelieving female should possess a knowledge of which Khadijah, the prophet's wife, was destitute.

In the evening, I accepted the invitation of Signor Piccinini, a Lucchese, in the service of the Swedish Consul at Alexandria, who had resided about nine years at Thebes, to see the opening of a mummy, that I might myself take out the scarabæus, or any such sacred ornament as might be found in the coffin. The Signor's dwelling was nothing more than a mud hut on the hills of Goornoo. I ascended to the only apartment by a few

steps; this room contained his couch, his arms, his wine, his few drawings, and all his worldly goods. The window shutters, steps, and floor, were composed of mummy coffins, painted with hieroglyphical figures, perhaps four thousand years old; and it was curious to observe the profuse expenditure of materials to which I had been accustomed to attach ideas of value, from seeing them only in museums and collections of antiquities.

I had accompanied Signor Piccinini with great glee, thinking what a fine thing it would be to tell my friends in England. What my notions of opening a mummy were I cannot define,—something, however, very classical and antique—certainly anything but what it proved in reality.

Half a dozen Arabs were standing around, panting under heat, dust, and fatigue. They had only just brought in their burthen, and were watching with eager look the examination of its contents, (their profits depend-

ing upon the value of the prize,) while the candles which they held to assist the search lighted up their anxious countenances.

The outside case of the mummy was covered with hieroglyphics, and the inner one consisted of a figure as large as life, with the face and eyes painted like a mask. On lifting up this cover, nothing was seen but a mass of dark yellow cloth, which, though it must have consisted of at least fifty folds, yielded like sand to the merciless hand of the operator, and the skeleton appeared to view. It was some time before I could recover from the horror with which the scene impressed me; I saw no more, but this little was sufficient to make me consider the employment as disgusting as that of a resurrection man, and the manner of performing it not less unfeeling. It may be called the pursuit of science, but to me it appeared nothing more than rifling the dead for the sake of the trifling ornaments with which the corpse is generally buried. This, indeed,

was the fact; for the moment it was ascertained that the mummy contained no ornament, the skeleton, together with the papyrus, on which were inscribed numerous distinct hieroglyphics, and the other materials, was cast forth as worthless rubbish. Sufficient papyrus and relics have been procured for the interests of science; and I think it would redound to the Pasha's credit if he were to issue an edict, to clear his country from these mummy scavengers. He had, indeed, ordered all the corpses to be re-interred; but, according to evident demonstration, this order was habitually disregarded. Scarabæi are scarce; a few were brought us by the Fellahs, while wandering about the ruins, though none of value. Ancient coins are procurable in abundance, but they were too numerous to prove curious, and they had certainly no beauty to attract us to be purchasers.

Signor Piccinini had found on a mummy some bracelets, about an inch wide, of small

coloured beads, which were remarkable, from resembling so much the fashion of the present day, yet, from the absence of all device, not nearly so pretty. The beads, which were of coral, cornelian, garnets, amethysts, and vitrefied porcelain of a bright blue colour, were strung together, and separated at every inch by a gold wire, or link, to which they were attached, in order to keep the bracelets flat on the arm. The Signor thought them very handsome; but they appeared to me of no value, except for their antiquity. During the many years he had resided at Thebes, he had only discovered one mummy likely to indemnify him for the labour of excavation.

Passing through his miserable kitchen, the shelves of which were also made of ancient coffins, we entered a tomb, where lay the mummy in question, supposed to be that of a High Priest. It was placed in a stone case, the lid of which was removed, and inclosed in three coffins, each having a

gilt mask at the upper end. The entire lid of the last coffin was also covered with gilding, in vivid preservation, and the body was wrapped in a garment curiously wrought with gold lace, and apparently of a tough texture. The whole figure seemed as fresh as if it had been prepared a few months before, but the envelopment remained unfolded. Signor Piccinini* said he might obtain five hundred dollars for this mummy at Alexandria, but he considered it of such value, that he thought of taking it himself to Tuscany. Whether or not this appreciation was to excite the cupidity of purchasers, I pretend not to determine.

The mountains in this neighbourhood, called Goornoo, have for centuries been the cemeteries for the dead; and notwithstanding the havoc which during some years has

* This unfortunate individual is since dead, after having passed so many years of painful and revolting labour, struggling with poverty, deprived of the alleviations of civilized life, and exposed to the insults and oppression of the Turkish authorities.—

"Poorly, poor man, he lived—poorly, poor man, he died."

been made amongst them, their contents appear inexhaustible. It would scarcely be an exaggeration to say, the mountains are merely roofs over the masses of mummies within them. The coffins serve as fire-wood to the whole neighbourhood: I saw nothing else burnt. At first I did not relish the idea of my dinner being dressed with this resurrection wood, particularly as two or three of the coffin lids,—which, as I said before, were in the shape of human figures,—were usually to be seen standing upright against the tree under which the cook was performing his operations, staring with their large eyes as if in astonishment at the new world upon which they had opened. The coffins were usually made of sycamore wood, which may serve, in some degree, to account for the almost total extinction of that tree in Upper Egypt, that, under which my tent was pitched, being the only one in the neighbourhood. This extinction, perhaps, may also be explained by the increasing aridity of the soil.

As numerous pits full of mummies have been discovered in the heart of the mountains, without coffins and merely embalmed, it may be inferred that these were the bodies of the poorer classes, who could not afford that expensive mode of interment.

CHAPTER VIII.

Return of the Gentlemen from Edfoo—Misconduct of the Turks regarding Boats for the Party—Condition of the Arabs of Upper Egypt—Fertility of the Soil—Paucity of Inhabitants about Thebes—Description of the Boat in which the Author embarked for Cairo.

AFTER an absence of six days the gentlemen returned from Edfoo. On their way thither, they saw Erment, or Hermonthis, to the inner temple of which they could not gain admittance, as it was occupied by the Turks. Near this place the Nile is remarkably narrow, not exceeding, in appearance, the breadth of one hundred and fifty yards. They seemed to have been somewhat disappointed with Edfoo; owing, perhaps, to Denon's exaggerated praise of it. After reading his description, I had set my heart upon seeing it; and I therefore was not sorry when I learnt that the ardent Frenchman had, in

some degree, supplied the dilapidations of time and barbarous destruction by his own vivid imagination. I feel no inclination, however, to speak of Denon but with the greatest respect; the general accuracy of his drawings and descriptions is wonderful ;—indeed so much so, that I know not how he could have accomplished the task under the privations to which he was exposed. Forced marches after a flying enemy,—the heat of an Egyptian summer, blinded as he was by dust and ophthalmia,—deprived of all remedies or alleviations,—unaccustomed, from his previous habits, to the hardships of a soldier's life, and at an age when such habits are neither easily formed, nor is the constitution enabled to bear them; his good humour and activity, aided by his zeal and talent, under all these adverse circumstances, are really worthy of admiration.

An elaborate account of the Temple of Edfoo would now be superfluous. It will, however, soon altogether cease to correspond

with the existing delineations of it, as the inner part of the temple is occupied by people of the village, who have disfigured it by building mud partitions between the pillars, almost up to their exquisite lotus capitals, and desecrate it by every species of abomination.

On their return they landed at Eleithias. The chief objects of curiosity in these caves have been enumerated by Hamilton; but the gentlemen were much interested in tracing the striking similarity of the representations of ancient Egyptian manners and occupations with those which actually prevail among the Hindoos. The Egyptian temples, too, resemble the Hindoo in the general structure, the form of the pillars, and the darkness of the interior. The representation of mythological figures is another coincidence, though there is no decided similarity between the deities represented. There are not wanting, on the other hand, strong points of distinction—the absence of pyra-

midal structures, and obelisks, and hieroglyphics, in India, where the inscriptions, if any, are in alphabetical writing. It may also be observed, that the most celebrated Hindoo temples are generally excavated, whereas the Egyptian are erected.

At Esneh, or Latopolis, the person in charge of the Temple readily offered the gentlemen admission, and conducted them wherever the place was accessible. But it was occupied as a storehouse for cotton, large bales of which were piled against its beautiful columns, and the hieroglyphics were much defaced by smoke.

The Kaimakan of the city was extremely civil; invited the party to drink coffee, sent a present of a sheep, and lent them horses to convey them to Aphroditopolis. A full-grown lioness, quietly basking in the sun, was chained to one of the pillars of the gallery through which they passed; and apparently, from the length of her chain, there was no other protection to

passengers, in such a dangerous vicinity, than the animal's forbearance.

They landed at Crocodilopolis, but, notwithstanding its significant name, did not see one of the animals which abounded there formerly, and from which the place took its appellation. Indeed, if I recollect right, we saw only one crocodile during the time we were on the Nile.

After ten days' delay, the boats from Kenneh arrived, but the Cacheef had fixed so large a price for them, and the Reis, or Captain, required so much more in addition, that Antonio went off to procure others. He succeeded; but these boats, with several more which joined him on his passage, anchored two miles below Thebes, the crew being fearful of approaching till those belonging to the Cacheef had been hired. When this was discovered, some of the gentlemen rode down to the spot, took possession each of a boat, and brought them up in triumph. The Turks of the Ca-

cheef's boats were so incensed when they saw this, that they fired three shots over one of the cangias * to intimidate the men. Matters, however, were at last accommodated, and all the boats were divided among the party: those of the Cacheef being taken at an exorbitant price, with the intimation, however, that a complaint respecting the exaction would be made to the Pasha. The above arrangements brought us to the 18th of January, an unfortunate loss of time, as I feared to encounter the plague at Alexandria, and in consequence a lengthened quarantine at Malta. Moreover, the state of politics made us anxious to leave Egypt, though it was scarcely possible to fancy a more peaceful country at that time. If I were to judge from what I saw, I should call the Arabs of

* The boats employed on the Nile are maashes, djerms, dahabeears, and cangias. The maash is a barge, used for accommodation or for burthen; the djerm, somewhat lighter and swifter, for the latter purpose exclusively. Dahabeears and cangias differ little in size and construction; the latter being smaller, and better calculated for expedition: both are employed solely for the conveyance of passengers.

Upper Egypt a happy people, notwithstanding the dwellings of the poorer class were wretched in the extreme; indeed, they generally lived in holes in the mountains, in order to place themselves in security from the inundation of the Nile. But as I wandered through the villages on the plain, the donkey drivers constantly offered me to partake of excellent wheaten bread; the sheep and cattle were abundant; the milk rich; and eggs were in such plenty, that we used to obtain eighty for a piastre *.

The soil of Egypt may truly be called luxuriant, and the surprising variety of the crops gave a pleasing novelty to our rides. Plains of the richest clover, in which the cattle revelled uncontrolled, besides fields of wheat, maize, beans of the sweetest scent, indigo, cotton, flax, (and I must not omit the blue lupine, which is here used as an article of food,) were to be seen extending in every

* Fifteen piastres, one dollar—one piastre, not quite three-pence.

direction. Still, amidst all this fruitfulness, I could not help remarking the loneliness of Thebes itself, (if I may so denominate Carnac and Luxor,) and how few animals and birds, pigeons alone excepted, broke the universal stillness. To my eye, accustomed to the swarming multitudes of Calcutta, the paucity of inhabitants here was very conspicuous. The absence, also, of all fishermen on the Nile was yet more remarkable. On the Ganges, hundreds of fishermen may be observed, and vessels are frequently obliged to alter their course, to avoid injuring the numerous nets; but at Thebes I never perceived any persons engaged in that employment, and the Nile flows silently and tranquilly along, undisturbed by a single boat. Meditating on this diversity, my imagination, rapidly passing over the occurrences of many weeks, transported me back to India, and forced upon me the contrast of Calcutta, the city of palaces, in the very pruriency of traffic and population, with the

once magnificent Thebes, the city of a hundred gates, devoid of inhabitants, without commerce, and lying waste, in all the desolation of ruined majesty.

Our servant had the whole morning been cleaning the maash selected for us, from the mud and dirt, which adhered to it at least two inches thick. The outside had already dispelled any illusions I might have had of its resemblance to Cleopatra's galley, but when I entered it, I confess I was quite dismayed. A common coal barge on the river Thames would have afforded better accommodation. Two small cabins in the stern, the wooden partitions besmeared with dirt, every plank divided, some entirely broken out, admitting sun, wind, and rats, and the lowness of the ceiling, which did not allow of my standing upright, made me look round in hopeless discomfort. Few minutes, however, elapsed before our tent was dismantled, the walls thrown over the top of the boat, and a pro-

jecting pole added, which, with the help of our trunks for a platform, and a carpet over them, formed a sort of verandah. We nailed table-cloths on the ceiling and sides of the cabin, and the openings most exposed to cold I closed with little coloured mats, which I happened to have brought with me from India. The carpet was spread; our two little brass camp beds soon looked like sofas, and it was no small gratification to me to see a clean, comfortable, nay, almost pretty habitation, instead of the dirty dismal hole I had entered an hour before.

CHAPTER IX.

Departure from Thebes—Dendera—Accident on return from thence—Want of cleanliness in the Arabs—Instances of their inoffensiveness and distrust—Siout—Bennihassen—First sight of the Pyramids.

HAVING thus long pitched our tents at Thebes I looked upon it as a home, and quitted it with much regret. We embarked on the 18th of January, and on the 19th arrived at Dendera, situated just opposite to Kennah, the Cacheef of which place had behaved so ill about the boats, that we determined not to land. It was not without threats, however, that we made the Reis pass on, Kennah being the usual place for obtaining supplies; but no sooner did we cast anchor, than the boat's crew, our servant, and interpreter, all deserted us. Next morning, after tracking in a boat an hour and a half, and riding another hour, we reached the temple of Dendera.

But the first view in the distance was less striking than I had anticipated. The portico alone was visible, and it was only upon a closer examination that I found much to admire, as the building itself is heavy, and the pillars, though they have been so highly praised, cannot justly be called beautiful.

The Egyptians being unacquainted with the scientific principles of the arch*, their pillars are always too much crowded together, but their height, and elegant proportions, and the absence of ceiling, generally diminish this defect. Not so at Dendera †: the portico, which is roofed in, and in perfect preservation, consists of twenty-four pillars, three in a row, and the four enormous faces of the goddess Isis, upon the capital of each, give the building a very clumsy appearance. The sculpture on the walls is extremely

* I have since heard of the discovery at Saccara of one ancient arch on the key-stone principle, and undoubtedly Egyptian.

† See Appendix I.

fine; and though most of the figures have been defaced with peculiar care, some intervening event must have arrested the progress of the destroying hand. The very spot is marked, one half of a figure in the middle of a row is defaced, and the other half, with two ranges of figures above, remains entire. When I discovered the western wall of the temple, my admiration was unbounded. It is in perfect preservation. The figures are finer, the proportions better, and the carving much superior to those on any building I had yet seen. The wall consists of immense blocks of stone, so smooth, and well put together, that the joints do not break the line of exquisite sculpture. One warrior is represented with a flowing robe, of such transparent workmanship, that the limbs are visible through it. But the whole of this noble edifice has already been described, and well justifies the praises bestowed upon it by Hamilton and Denon. It is equally wonder-

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ful in its magnitude, and the profusion of its ornaments, as in the combination it exhibits of the refined taste of the Greeks, with the solidity and splendour of more ancient times; and it is a curious fact that the Greeks and Romans continued to adopt the Egyptian style of architecture in the sacred edifices raised by them after the country had come under their dominion. The names deciphered at Dendera are comparatively modern,—Ptolemy, Tiberius, Claudius, Domitian, Trajan, and Antonine.

On our return from the temple, I was nearly meeting with an awkward adventure. After a long ride, we found we had missed the place where we had left the ferry-boat, and that we had to cross a quicksand before we could reach our maash. In a minute, my donkey sank up to the saddle, and one second more saw me off its back, and thrown across the shoulder of an Arab: no sack of corn could have been treated with less cere-

mony. At any other time, I should have shuddered at the approach of his garment to within a yard of my person. But when I had recovered from my first surprise, my ridiculous position would have made me laugh audibly, had I not been fearful that, if the man had caught the contagion, he might have let me fall into the stream. Fortunately I did not recollect, at that moment, the confession of an Arab boatman, with whom I remonstrated on his want of cleanliness, and who, on my questioning him how often he washed, answered, with apparent simplicity, that he had only done so three times in his life, when the ceremonies of his religion peremptorily required it. What a contrast to the practice of the Hindoos, who never allow a day to pass without plenary ablution, and who, in the coldest weather, bathe their shivering limbs in the Ganges, allowing the clothes, which they wash with themselves, to dry on their persons!

I should not forget to mention that the Deputy of the Governor of Kenneh, fearing the consequence of our threatened appeal to the Pasha, who severely punishes extortion on the part of his officers towards strangers, came on board to offer his apologies, which were of course accepted, as the principal motive for resisting the demands for the boats was to preserve future travellers from similar exactions.

Passing How, where the French defeated the Mamelukes, we reached Girgeh on the 23d. This town contains a convent, the superior and monks of which dress in the Arab style. One of them, Padre Ladeslao, a Roman, who was at Cairo when the English prisoners taken in General Frazer's unfortunate expedition were there, had resided fifteen or sixteen years at Girgeh. He mentioned that there were in the place, eight hundred or one thousand Christians, of whom about four hundred were Catholics, the rest

Copts, at least in name. The Coptic church is descended from the ancient Eutychians and Jacobites of the Monophysite heresy.

The wind being very high, we were obliged to anchor under a range of mountains, in which were many holes, or mummy pits, inhabited by Arabs apparently very poor. Mr. L. and I walked about a mile from the boat, and fell in with some of these men, of the wildest appearance, feeding their flocks. We selected a sheep which we wished to purchase, and agreed on the terms, but no persuasion could induce the Arabs to take it to the boat till they had the money in hand. We had none with us, as our interpreter as well as our signs explained, but we promised to pay them the moment we reached the boat, which was then in sight. Their incredulity, however, was such that, poor as they were, they permitted us to depart, rather than depend upon our promise.

Belzoni mentions that a promise to an Arab is a thing of nought, and this, I could imagine, might be the case at Philæ; but not within a short distance of Cairo, where traffic cannot, I should presume, always be carried on in ready money. Perhaps they apprehended oppression similar to that which they experienced from the Turks, who, I believe, forcibly seize every thing they stand in need of.

Our boat's crew breakfasted off coffee, poached or hard eggs, and bread. They frequently purchased meat in addition to that which we gave them; which surprised me, as I had heard so much of their poverty. Although there is plenty of fish in the Nile, some of which I tasted and found good, the Arabs do not trouble themselves to take it, as they find the cultivation of the soil more profitable. The mention of these circumstances reminds me of an instance of the unceremoniousness of our insubordinate crew.

Having procured a sheep, I promised them a portion of it; but while I was giving directions to the servant as to what parts to retain, I found they had spared me the trouble of subdivision, by appropriating, without further authority, the best half to themselves.

The north wind continued so strong that the boat made little progress, and we were enabled to land generally when we felt inclined. Frequently, accompanied only by my female servant, I wandered to a considerable distance from the boat. The Reis at first remonstrated with me upon my temerity, and recommended me to have an armed attendant, but notwithstanding I disregarded his warnings, I met with no alarms. The Fellahs, carrying loads of forage on their asses or camels, permitted us to pass without interruption, and their wives generally stopped to open their baskets filled with rice, eggs, and bread, in hopes of sale.

Were it not for the voyage from Alexandria to Malta, and the quarantine, I could fancy, to a person fond of change, no pleasanter variety than passing a winter in Egypt. The climate is exhilarating in the extreme; the sailing and floating down the Nile attended with no trouble; the scenery beautiful; and, indeed, the lasting gratification of seeing such objects as Thebes and the Pyramids is worth greater sacrifices than a sea voyage and a temporary imprisonment.

We were soon obliged to desire the Reis to anchor below a town or village, for, on approaching Lower Egypt, we had come to the vicinity of the Turks, who were more curious and presuming than the Arabs, and usually assembled to see what the boat contained. The women, too, were importunate, coming down to beg, and whining out "Meskeen Khowajah," which means "I am poor, merchant," an appellation they give to every one in a Frank dress, for it never enters into

their contemplation that a person can travel for pleasure, or from any other motive than gain; perhaps, however, this term is intended as one of respect when applied to Christians.

Siout, the capital of Upper Egypt, where we landed on the 27th, is a nice-looking town, with several good minarets. The house of Ibrahim Pasha, the governor, who is also son-in-law to Mahomed Ali, was far superior to any we had seen in this country; but the materials of it were not more substantial. The people were not uncivil, and apparently accustomed to Europeans. A Turkish boy, however, of about fifteen years old, deprived us of a couple of asses we had just hired, by intimidating the driver. Being in front of the Turkish mainguard, it was prudent to submit to this act of insolence.

Signor Massari, a Neapolitan physician employed here by the Pasha as a vaccinator, informed us that the ambassadors of Eng-

land, France and Russia, had left Constantinople; a piece of intelligence which rendered me more anxious than ever to proceed.

On the night of the 28th we were off Antinoë, built by Hadrian, in honour of his favourite, Antinous, who was supposed to have been drowned in the Nile near this spot. Its ruins, described by Hamilton, induced some of the gentlemen, though it was so late as eleven o'clock, to visit them. After a good deal of trouble, they procured a guide from the village; and, at the end of a desolate walk, they were disappointed by finding every relic of value removed, it was said, for materials for the new buildings at Siout, and to embellish the Dufturdar's palace at Cairo. It would have been gratifying to have seen these ruins, and thus been enabled to compare the architecture of Hadrian's city on the banks of the Nile, with Hadrian's magnificent villa near Rome.

On reaching Bennihassen, we anchored

just below the grottoes which are half-way up the mountain. Within a square cut in the rock, is seen a temple supported by pillars, on which rests a pediment. These pillars, which are more in the Grecian than the Egyptian style, are singularly elegant, having their shafts composed of four rods compressed at the neck of the capital which is formed by their expansion. The scenes on the walls are excellently described by Hamilton. The colours were a good deal covered by dirt and smoke, but when we removed these with a wet towel, fixed to the end of a pole, we were all surprised at a brilliant picture making its appearance. The colours are occasionally very vivid; the green, lilac, and light blue, of the plumage of some birds, represented in the act of being snared, are particularly fine. I observed no mythological figures here, and few hieroghyphics. On this spot I was struck with the quantities of little flattened

stones, or, as it were, pieces of burnt clay of a sand colour, about the size of a shilling, and called by the natives angels' money; they were as numerous on these mountains as shingles on the sea-shore.

As we advanced towards Cairo, the navigation of the Nile became more precarious, and the maash frequently got aground, where our course, from a partial depth of the stream, seemed least liable to interruptions. Two maashes, sunk in a rocky and dangerous part of the river, almost a whirlpool, proved the risk we encountered in going on at night; and yet this we were compelled to do, from the violence of the contrary wind which prevailed during the day.

The next morning, on looking out of the maash, I was struck by seeing what appeared to me a mountain of singular shape, inclining to one side, as if the foundation had partially given way. A little below, the view of the Pyramids of Ghizeh first broke

upon me; and as the mountain above mentioned made them look small, they did not fill me with that degree of astonishment which I had expected them to excite. Great, therefore, was my surprise to find that what I had imagined to be a mountain, was called the false pyramid—which, from being nearer, and built upon a mound, seemed, though the reverse, of a larger size than the others. Had I at first known the truth, the effect would, perhaps, have been far more imposing; but, as it was, I looked and looked, and endeavoured to raise myself to something like enthusiasm, but I could not succeed. The Pyramids still continued to be, in my eyes, no more than the pigmy efforts of human imperfection to rival the surrounding mountains.

CHAPTER X.

Approach to Cairo—Ride from the Boats to the Consulate—Apprehension of the Plague—Excursion through the City and its environs — Dufturdar — Anecdote of the Pasha's summary justice—Tombs of the Mamaluke Sultauns—Wretched condition of the Children—Visit to Shoobra—Anecdote of the Pasha's affection for his late Wife.

Our approach to Cairo was not under favourable auspices. The rain which, for the last three days, had so unusually prevailed, continued to drizzle, and the cloudy sky added to the melancholy appearance of the decayed and deserted barrack-looking houses on each side the Nile, in which the casements were broken, if ever they had been glazed. A few stragglers along the banks, and no boats in activity on the river, gave but little idea of our vicinity to a capital.

The first thing which attracted my attention after the Pyramids, was a castellated building, perched on the summit of the

mountain on the right bank of the river—so high and so obscured by the mist, that I had no idea of what it was till I looked through a telescope, when it proved a picturesque fort, of the same colour as the mountain on which it stood; and, from the latter being scarped from top to bottom, the ascent outside appeared very difficult. We pulled on till two hours after dark, and remained all night in a creek of the river, to avoid the noise of the numerous craft in the principal stream, and also to escape a visit from the rats, which are ever ready to shift their quarters on the arrival of a new vessel. A steam-boat was lying opposite the island of Rhoda, where the Indian army was encamped in 1801. Next morning we landed at Bulac, and found horses and donkeys provided for us by the kindness of Mr. Maltas, acting for Mr. Barker, the English consul, then at Alexandria. The gentlemen went first, and after despatching our baggage to

Cairo, I mounted my dapple, and, attended by Antonio the Italian servant, followed to the consulate.

I felt some little nervousness at the idea of riding through the crowded streets at noon; but there proved no just cause of apprehension from the people, who, though they looked intently, and one or two Turks made observations to each other, offered not the slightest incivility.

I believe the women I met eyed me with as much interest as I regarded them. They resembled friars more than women; appearing generally coarse and fat, riding *en cavalier*, and enveloped in a loose, shapeless garment of black silk, which covered the head as well as the figure, and on the forehead joined a piece of white linen which descended in a peak to the waist, and which, without sticking close, concealed the face like a mask. Two holes were cut in this for the eyes, sometimes so large that one might

guess at the character of the face beneath; and the cloth, from the forehead down to the tip of the nose, was adorned with a row of sequins, or other ornaments. Altogether the whole dress was grotesque and ugly. Many streets were so narrow that, but for the blows of the donkey drivers, I think I should have been squeezed to death by the camels and their loads. Men, horses, donkeys, and camels, all hurried on, without the least regard to whom or what might be in their way, and yet all appeared to escape with safety. The day was still overcast, and the sight of so many narrow streets and deserted houses, both then and the day before, filled me with a melancholy I could not shake off, and which was not diminished by the appearance of the consulate where we were to lodge. Mr. Salt being lately dead, the house was consequently uninhabited, and, to an English eye, unfurnished.

The conversation, in the evening, turned

on the plague; and we heard that one *accident* (the term used for a death by plague) had already occurred. It was natural, therefore, on retiring to my gloomy chamber at night, to dwell on this awful subject. These meditations were not cheered by the sight of an iron bedstead and several bottles of camphor on a bureau, indicating the precautions observed against infection; and I felt an increased dejection from having, in the morning, received letters which transported me in idea to England, and all the smiling comforts of a home, where happily such dreadful inflictions are unknown. Casting off, however, these lugubrious reflections, I joined my friends next day in an excursion to view the various objects of interest within our reach.

Crossing the Esbequier, or great square, we came to the house of the Dufturdar who married the Pasha's daughter, to which a garden is attached, with a summer-house or

pavilion in it, and a marble fountain. The orange trees were in full fruit: the most conspicuous flowers were French marigolds, interspersed in the same beds with large cabbages; the fruit, flower, and kitchen garden being thus combined in one.

It was in this garden that General Kleber was assassinated. We saw the spot where he was standing, and the well to which his murderer fled for concealment. It is well known that the assassin was impaled, and that he survived three days in agony. The adjoining house to this palace is a humble one, but it was that in which Bonaparte held his head-quarters while at Cairo.

The Dufturdar is much disliked; he was said to be of a sanguinary disposition, and only kept in check by the Pasha. It was generally stated that, since Mahomed Ali had felt himself secure in the Pashalic, he had ceased to be cruel; seldom, of late years, taking away life, and never with torture; and

if the subordinate Turks were as well disposed as himself, the Arabs, notwithstanding the oppressive taxes, would feel their property more secure. One instance of his prompt justice excited much astonishment; yet a more deliberate method would not probably, with such a people, have produced an equal effect. A Cacheef, who had not long been accustomed to the Pasha's rule, punished one of his own servants with death. The chief was called before Mahomed, who asked him by what authority he had committed this outrage. He replied that the man was his own servant. "True," retorted the Pasha, "but he was my subject;" and with that he passed sentence, and had the unfortunate Cacheef immediately beheaded—an effectual warning to the rest of the grandees present. The above act of severity has saved the lives of many of the Arabs who, in former times, would have been sacrificed by their Turkish masters on the most trifling pretences.

Passing near the ancient mosque called Sultaun Hakim's, and the lofty gateway denominated Babool Futteh, we proceeded by the Babool Nussar, the handsomest gate of the city, and built in the grand Saracenic style. It is impossible to see Cairo without being struck with the size and durability of the ancient edifices, compared with the fragility of those of modern date. However, these are relative terms, for the times of Saladin, which in England I should call ancient, I must in Egypt term modern, and shall express my meaning more clearly if I say the fragility of the buildings erected within the last one hundred and fifty years: all these are going to decay, while those of seven or eight hundred years ago are standing, and if left to time, without being dilapidated by man, will, to all appearance, last for some centuries to come. On our way we passed by a small red and white striped house, in which Burckhardt died.

His name is never mentioned without panegyric, and expressions of deep regret.

The ultimate object of our excursion was the tombs of the Mamaluke Sultauns.—These are situated, as it would appear, in the very heart of the Desert; and it struck me as one of the most singular features of Grand Cairo that, from the very centre of population, from a scene of luxuriant cultivation, we in a moment, without the slightest preparation, passed on to a plain and hills of sand. Not a tree, not a habitation breaks the uniformity of the surface: nothing is visible but a district of graves, extending as far as the eye can reach; and, where the stones are no longer perceptible, little hillocks of sand mark the places of sepulture.

Amidst this desolation arise the tombs of the Mamalukes. The largest is that of Sultan Beerkook and his followers. It is in the form of a square, and its walls are in excellent preservation. On one side, in an arched

and vaulted room inlaid with coloured marbles, are placed his remains; at the extremity of an open gallery is a similar room, now used as a mosque. The square is embellished with a minar and dome. The latter especially, with the pulpit or muezzin, is cut in the most elegant and delicate fretwork of stone.

The rest of the building was occupied by poor Arabs, who lived by begging, and in this dwelling are safe from taxes and extortion.

The wretchedness of the children was beyond any thing I had ever seen; several were totally blind, others almost so, and some who had lost one eye, and evidently, from disease and dirt, were losing the other, excited my utmost compassion. It was in vain I explained to their parents the necessity of cleanliness; they replied, "water was cold, water would make them worse," and returned to the clamour for bucksees,

which they appeared to value above the blessing of sight. Many of these little wretches wore strings of blue beads as necklaces and bracelets, and others had bunches of them hung on their ears, while their eyes swarmed with flies, rendering them the most piteous objects I ever beheld.

As I had already seen an Egyptian garden, I looked forward to an excursion to Shoobra, the country-seat of the Pasha, with little or no curiosity. Proceeding, however, by a fine road, planted on each side with acacias and sycamores, whose growth, owing to the richness of the soil, kept pace with the impatient disposition of the Pasha, who had, at one sweep, cut down the avenue of mulberry trees three years before, we arrived at the house, which is situated close to the Nile, and commands a fine prospect of the river and city.

The exterior of the building exhibited nothing remarkable. On ascending a ter-

race a few feet square, we passed through a rough wooden door, such as is fit only for an outhouse, and found ourselves in the Pasha's room of audience. It was matted, and round the walls was fixed a row of cushions, on two corners of which were placed satin pillows, marking the seat the Pasha occupied according to the position of the sun. Just over a low ledge in the door, we stepped into a small room with a bedding on the floor; this was his sleeping chamber. Surely never monarch had so little luxury or state. Thence we came at once to the magnificent suite of apartments appropriated to the chief lady of the harem.

The centre of the principal room formed a sort of octagon, with three recesses, all inlaid with marble. From the four corners opened four smaller rooms, fitted with splendid divans and cushions of velvet, and cloth of gold; and a set of marble baths completed this series of elegant apartments.

The ceilings, executed by a Greek artist, were lofty and vaulted, ornamented with gold and representations of landscapes, or of palaces and colonnades, the whole painted in light and pleasing colours.

The Sultana's private sitting room was still more sumptuous. The ceiling consisted of a circus of palaces, the columns and arches of which were delineated with a most successful regard to perspective. These apartments were until lately occupied by the Pasha's deceased wife, mother of Ibrahim Pasha, by a former husband. Their splendour was singularly contrasted with the plainness of those inhabited by the Pasha himself. This led one of my friends to ask if I was not penetrated with so convincing a proof of the gallantry of the Turk; and he challenged me to cite the English husband who would have done so much for the exclusive gratification of his wife. To which I could only reply that, with my erratic pro-

pensities, I should not willingly resign the privilege of locomotion for such proofs of affection ; and that I apprehended few English women would answer either the Pasha's or Sancho Panza's idea of a good wife, by continually remaining, according to the latter's proverb, "like an honest woman, at home, as if her leg were broken."

Mahomed Ali's late consort had great influence over him during her life, as he considered his marriage with her the foundation of his good fortune. She was esteemed and beloved by the people, for her influence was ever employed on the side of justice and mercy. Much of her time was occupied in receiving petitions; but it was seldom she had to refer them to the Pasha, as her power was too well known by the ministers to require this last appeal. If, however, in consequence of any demur on their part, she had to apply to him, he answered their remonstrance by saying—"It is enough. By

my two eyes! if she requires it, the thing must be done; be it through fire, water, or stone."

His Highness, during the heats of summer, sits below, in a room particularly adapted for coolness, and having a marble fountain in the centre. On one of the walls is inscribed, in large Arabic characters, a verse from the Koran, signifying, "An hour of justice is worth seventy days of prayer."

The gardens of Shoobra, with their golden fruit and aromatic flowers, having already been described by former travellers, I shall pass on to the magnificent pavilion, which constitutes the chief embellishment of the place, and which was completed only a few weeks before my visit. This pavilion is about two hundred and fifty feet long by two hundred broad. On its sides run four galleries, or colonnades, composed of elegant pillars of the finest white marble (of an order resembling the

Composite), surrounding a sunken court of six feet deep, paved throughout with the same beautiful material. At each corner of the colonnade is a terrace, over which water passes into the court below in a murmuring cascade, having on its ledges figures of fish, sculptured so true to nature that, with the flowing stream, they appear to move. The whole supply of water rises again through a fountain in the centre, and re-appears in a beautiful jet-d'eau, lofty, sparkling, and abundant. One seldom sees an exhibition of this character without apprehending a failure of water; but here the works are fed by the Nile, and the spectator is aware that its exuberance will not cease.

In fine weather, the Pasha occasionally resorts to this splendid fountain with the ladies of his harem, who row about in the flooded court for the amusement of his highness, while he is seated in the colonnade. Great is the commotion when the ladies

descend into the garden. A signal is given, and the gardeners vanish in an instant. We were all struck with the ruddy cheeks and healthy appearance of these men. They were principally Greeks; and the gay colours of their fanciful costume—each with a nose-gay or bunch of fruit in his hand—combined with the luxuriant scenery around, gave them more the semblance of actors in a ballet representing a fête in Arcadia, than the real labourers of a Turkish despot.

CHAPTER XI.

Visit to the Citadel—Labour of the Women and Children—Splendid View from the Terrace—The Pasha's Palace—Slave Market—Cemetery of the Pasha's family—Tussoon Pasha—Ismael Pasha.

THE next day, while the gentlemen were gone to visit the Governor of Cairo*, I followed to the citadel, accompanied by Osman, the Scotchman so often mentioned by travellers in Egypt, who now practises physic in the city, and has received the title of Effendi from the Pasha. After passing many splendid mosques, we ascended through a gate, which still retained shot-marks and other

* The governor received the party very courteously, and patted one of them on the back incredulously, when he said he had been thirty years in India, and did not mean to return; not understanding how any person could tear himself from that country after so long a residence. The Italian interpreter knelt at his feet. On leaving the audience-chamber, the gentlemen saw about twenty of the household ranged in a line, saying prayers, according to the motions of a Moollah placed in front as a fugleman.

indications of former warfare, and entered at once on a paved road, very steep and inclosed between high walls. "Here it was," whispered Osman, "that *those persons*, whose names I will not mention, were massacred on their return from visiting the Pasha." A painful feeling made me look round to see if there was no escape; there was none; and no resistance could have availed, as the assailants were above, protected by the walls, whence they fired in perfect security on the Mamalukes—who, with their attendants and horses pressing on each other, formed a dense mass below. I shuddered as I beheld in imagination the slaughter of these unfortunate people, utterly helpless, unable to fly, indeed scarcely able to move.

Osman made the only excuse which could be given for this treacherous act—that policy required it, for that the Mamalukes were conspiring against the Pasha, and if he had not killed them they would have destroyed

him. Those best acquainted with the Pasha, say he was himself much disturbed during the day, and reproved, by his silence and a look, one of his Frank physicians who alluded to the subject with levity.

The citadel, which was much shaken four years ago by the explosion of a magazine, is now undergoing a thorough repair. We here saw many vestiges of this destructive accident, the effects of which were aggravated by its having occurred when the plague was at its height; for persons, who had shut themselves up to avoid contagion, were obliged to fly from their houses, mingle with the crowd, and assist in extinguishing the fire which followed the explosion. Among the ruins about to be pulled down, I grieved to observe some interesting relics of the reign of Saladin: one of these, his hall, which might long have stood the ravages of time, is to make room for a square. The roof of this edifice is very beautiful. It is

formed of a succession of little domes made of wood, into which are introduced concave circles, containing octagons of blue and gold. The corners and arches of the building are carved in the best Gothic manner, and in many places the colours and gilding continue perfectly bright.

Parties of women and children were running up and down the precipitous rock on which the citadel stands, on planks without railing, removing the rubbish, and carrying mortar for the new building. My heart ached when I saw these poor creatures struck with a thick stick which the overseer flourished in his hand; though but for the blows I should scarcely have known they were not all in play, as they were singing in the loudest key; this, however, I afterwards learned was compulsory. The different parties, in presenting themselves for work, almost tore the overseer to pieces, screaming out their song, and never ceasing to run

round and round, like so many dervishes in a circle, till their hods were emptied or filled. Moved by their apparently hard fate, I was lamenting my inability to relieve the whole of the wretched crowd, when, after a longer inspection, I observed with astonishment how little either the children or women seemed to care for it themselves—the former, with all the hilarity of their early age, were dancing about, and running up and down without their burthens, evidently for pleasure. While the women slunk away, hiding under the guns, and behind the rubbish, and when detected by the harassed overseer, only fled from the expected blow with a loud laugh: in the end, I scarcely knew who was most to be pitied, the overseer or themselves. Each village sends a certain number of inhabitants for the public works, and also an overseer, who being of the same village, and a countryman, might be expected to feel more compassion than a Turk. The

labourers are supplied with as much bread as they can eat, in fact are better fed than they would be at home; and on the collection of the taxes, a small sum is remitted to them, equal, I believe, to a penny a day each. Leaving the above scene, so painful to an English eye, I joined the party at Joseph's Well, the work of Saladin's vizier, whose name was Yusuf (the Arabic for Joseph), easily, but erroneously, transformed into that of the patriarch Joseph.

After examining this famous well, too much known by the description of former travellers to require any comments of mine, we ascended to the terrace leading to the Pasha's palace, whence there is a magnificent view of Cairo and the surrounding country; white palaces, old and decayed houses, numerous mosques, with their lofty and elegant minarets, the Nile flowing through fields in perfect verdure, and bearing on its bosom the boats of the country,

with their picturesque lateen sails *, the distant pyramids, the huge mosque of Sultan Hassan almost at the foot of the terrace, the burying grounds outside the city studded with white tombs, the busy market places, the white and green tents of the military, the elegant mausoleums of the Mamaluke caliphs,—even the large mounds of rubbish, from their contrast, formed a prospect in itself almost worth a journey from India to behold. We then entered the palace, infinitely more splendid and capacious than that at Shoobra; the grand hall measuring between the divans one hundred and fifty by one hundred and twenty feet, with large plate-glass windows, and paved with marble slabs, of the extraordinary size of eighteen feet in the square. The furniture of the side rooms was cloth of gold, embossed with tulips

* These sails, so different from the large square one of Bengal, I observed first at Ceylon. They continued with us from that latitude up the Red Sea, and we recognised them again in the Mediterranean.

and roses, in purple and green velvet, and had been brought from Constantinople.

I conclude that persons, by a long residence in Egypt, become callous to the fear of the plague; but I confess it had not decreased with me, for as, on my return from the citadel, I rode along the crowded bazar, the coming in contact with some of the wretched and diseased people filled me with apprehension. Nor could this collision always be avoided, although I had a man walking on each side of my donkey, and a chioush in front to clear the way. Nobody seems surprised in the streets, whatever may be the encounter, whether with a brick-loaded camel (a tremendous opponent in a narrow lane), a water-carrier's mule, or a couple of bullocks abreast. When, however, in addition to the customary obstacles, I was stopped by a marriage procession, I despaired of escape, for here mendicants are in the habit of silently touching you to at-

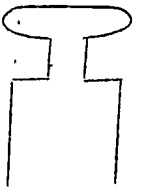
tract attention, and, by way of asking charity or thanking you for it, they take your hand and kiss it before you are aware of their intention. These incidents may appear of little moment to those who quietly read of them by their fireside, but happening to the traveller in a land of contagion, are subjects of anxiety.

The slave-market is a small square, in which were a few people eating very comfortably together, some of whom, it was said, were slaves, but no distress or misery was to be discovered, and the whole scene had so little of singularity about it, that our party soon passed on, partaking of that indifference which seemed to pervade all the inmates of the place in question. On a terrace above were perceived a few girls and children from Darfour, stated to be for sale, who were laughing very heartily, and amusing themselves at the curiosity they excited. Feeling hearts need not grieve over such a

state of slavery. Slaves are usually treated with kindness in Asia, and in most other countries, except where Europeans are concerned, and are, in many instances, happier in that condition than in their original state, which is generally one of extreme penury and wretchedness. Let me not, however, be supposed to say any thing in extenuation of West India slavery, or its horrible mode of supply.

Among the curiosities of Cairo is the cemetery of the Pasha's family. It is a vaulted stone building, consisting of five domes, under which, in splendid marble tombs, ornamented with painting and gold, repose the bodies of the Pasha's two sons, Tussoon Pasha and Ismael Pasha. Here also is buried Mahomed Ali's first and favourite wife, mother of the present Ibrahim Pasha, so well known in Greece. The Pasha's sister is buried in a tomb he had intended for himself. On a pillar, erected at the foot

of this tomb, which, as usual, looks towards Mecca, is the distinguishing mark of the grave of a female.



A turban at the top of the pillar designates that of a man.

The body of Tussoun Pasha, who died suddenly in Upper Egypt, was forwarded in a cangia to Shoobra. The Pasha was then at Ghizeh, and only hearing that his son was ill, instantly sent to Cairo for an Italian physician, and hurried to Shoobra in the greatest anxiety. When arrived, he immediately called for his son, and the attendants, unwilling to tell the distressing news, pointed to the cangia—rushing in, the Pasha ascertained the afflicting truth. Having followed the corpse on foot to the place of interment, he shut himself up, and was for some time

inconsolable; on the third day, however, he called his ministers around him, and said that his grief had been such, that at first he could have killed himself, but that now he must no further yield to affliction, nor longer cease to recollect that he was the father of his people. After this he proceeded to business, and gave his orders as usual. Independent of the Pasha's affection for this young man—and every one represents him as being a fond and indulgent father—he must have deplored his death in a political point of view, as he had now only one surviving son. Tussoon was also much regretted by the people. He was said to be mild, kind, and generous; indeed, his liberality amounted to such profusion, as not always to please the old Pasha;—for instance, once when some arms, splendidly inlaid, had arrived from Europe for sale, Mahomed Ali enquired the price of one of the guns, and being told it was 10,000 piastres, refused to

take it for that sum. "But," said he, "I will deal fairly; I will weigh the gun against piastres, and will pay for the value of the materials and workmanship in gold." It weighed 9000 piastres.

The Pasha then heard Tussoon order the rest of the arms into his tent, without enquiring their cost, to be distributed in presents to his Meem Bashees, and other followers. "Aha!" exclaimed the Pasha, "to whom do these arms belong? who sends into Tussoon's tents presents to the value of 10,000 piastres? where is his head? Take care," turning to Mr. Walmas, the purveyor of these articles, "that presents only to the amount of one purse, or one purse and a half at most, be placed at the disposal of that foolish young man."—"Who am I," replied Tussoon, "that I should be thus restricted? Am I not a Pasha of three tails? and shall I not give presents according to my rank?" This story has no particular point,

except as showing the arbitrary character of the Pasha, and how it yielded to indulgence towards his son, for it ended in allowing him to appropriate the presents ; nor should I mention it, but as tending to refute the improbable tale that he had hastened the death of his favourite child ;—however, when the Pasha talks of taking off heads, even in jest, I suspect the surrounding crowd cannot feel themselves quite at their ease.

The guards made some demur before they allowed me to pass into the cemetery of Ali Pasha, the great predecessor of Mahomed Ali. I was more pleased with these tombs than those of Mahomed Ali's family, as they were delicately carved in fret-work of marble, while the simplicity of the others was spoiled by ornaments of painting and gold.

Nobody thought it worth while to ascend the mountain which overhangs the city, to visit Jebbel Jehusi, said to be the site of the Egyptian Babylon.

CHAPTER XII.

Ascent of the great Pyramid of Ghizeh—Sphinx—Rude behaviour of the Arabs—Pyramids of Abousir, Saccara, and Dashour—Visit to Signor Caviglia—Site of Memphis—Stone Quarries.

AFTER crossing the river, a gentle ride of three hours brought us to the Pyramids of Ghizeh. The ascent of the great pyramid, the only one that can be called accessible *, had been so differently represented, that I could form no just idea of its facility or difficulty. Savary talks of the great pains and many efforts necessary to effect it, and mentions that, after having descended, without falling into the abyss below, he looked up to the pyramid with horror. Count de Noé,

* The upper part of the other large pyramid (that of Cephrenes) is covered with a coating of stones or marble, which scarcely affords any footing. It has, however, been ascended by one or two Englishmen, besides Arabs. The entrance is now closed by stones which have fallen in.

again, says, that he arrived at the summit, "avec la plus grande peine, épuisé de fatigue, et dans un état d'étourdissement difficile à d'écrire." Dr. Clarke * relates that one of his military companions was so overcome by the arduousness of mounting the pyramid, that he abandoned the attempt in despair, until his friends, returning from the top, urged him to resume his efforts, which were at last successful. On the other hand, Major Sherer asserts that the pyramid is ascended without further inconvenience than is caused by the great height of the steps, and that there is no sort of danger. Dr. Richardson goes still further:—"Lady Belmore," he remarks, "ascended it with the most perfect ease, and none of the party experienced the

* It is now too late to inquire why Dr. Clarke omitted, in subsequent editions, the sublime passage relative to the impressions excited by these monuments, which occurs in the quarto volume of his Travels in Egypt:—

"——————— Ideas of duration, almost endless; of power inconceivable; of majesty supreme; of solitude most awful, of grandeur, of desolation, and of repose."

smallest difficulty or vertigo. Indeed, every step recedes so much from the one below it, and affords such excellent footing, that the mind has the most perfect conviction of security; and I am disposed to think that giddiness has but rarely occurred to those who have attempted to climb this lofty pile." The reader, therefore, will, I think, not be displeased, after these contradictory testimonies, with a faithful description of my experience in achieving the same enterprise.

On my arrival, I saw some persons nearly at the top, and some just commencing the ascent. They were all at the very edge, and, certainly, their apparently perilous situation justified me in the conviction that I should never be able to mount. However, determining to make the attempt, I commenced outside from where the entrance has been formed, and walked along the whole length of one side of the square, about forty feet from the ground, to the opposite corner;

the ledge being narrow, and in one place quite broken off, requiring a long step to gain the next stone. As the pyramid itself formed a wall to the right hand, and consequently an apparent defence, I felt no want of courage till I reached the corner where the ascent is in many places absolutely on the angle, leaving no protection on either side. About this time I began to be heartily frightened; and when I heard one gentleman from above call to me to desist, and another tell me not to think of proceeding, right glad was I to return, and to attribute my want of success to their advice rather than to my own deficiency of spirit. Each of the gentlemen as they descended told me the difficulty and fatigue were great, and they evidently were heated and tired; but, at length, in answer to my question a hundred times repeated, of do you think I *could* go? they proposed to me to try at least, and kindly offered to accompany me. Away I went, and by the

assistance of a footstool in some places, and the aid of the guides, and the gentlemen to encourage me, I succeeded in arriving halfway, all the time exclaiming I should never get down again; and, indeed, my head was so giddy that it was some minutes after I was seated, at the resting-stone halfway, before I could recover myself. Being a little refreshed, I resumed the ascent, but the guides were so clamorous that I turned back, finding their noise, and pushing, and crowding, as dangerous as the height. The gentlemen at length brought them to some degree of order, partly by remonstrance, and partly by carrying the majority to the top, and leaving only two with me. This quiet in some degree restored my head, and the footing, as I advanced, becoming more easy, I reached the summit amidst the huzzas of the whole party. It was a considerable time, however, before I gained confidence to look around, notwithstanding I was on a surface thirty feet square.

The prospect, though from so great an elevation, disappointed me. I saw, indeed, an immense extent of cultivated country, divided into fields of yellow flax, and green wheat, like so many squares in a chess-board, with the Nile and its various canals which cause their luxuriance, and a vast tract of desert on the other side; I must, however, acknowledge that this scenery I enjoyed on recollection, for I was too anxious how I was to get down, to think much of the picturesque. A railing even of straws might give some slight idea of security, but here there was absolutely nothing, and I had to cross and recross the angle, as the broken ledges rendered it necessary; for it is a mistake to suppose there are steps: the passage is performed over blocks of stone and granite, some broken off, others crumbling away, and others, which, having dropped out altogether, have left an angle in the masonry; but all these are very irregular. Occasionally the width and

height of the stones are equal, but generally the height greatly exceeds the width; in many parts the blocks are four feet high. Once the stone was so high, that as I slipped off I feared that my feet would shoot beyond the ledge on which they were next to rest, and which certainly was but a few inches wide. Another time I was in great peril: I had stretched one foot down with much exertion as far as it could reach, and as the other followed, the heel of the shoe caught in a crevice of the rock, and I had nearly lost my balance in the effort to extricate myself. In a few places the width of the ledges enabled me to use the footstool, which considerably diminished the fatigue, but the greater number were far too narrow for its three feet to rest upon, and I thought it too insecure to allow an Arab to support it with his hands, while I stepped upon it.

After all this it may be supposed I was glad when I had accomplished the undertak-

ing, for, to tell the truth, the greatest pleasure I felt in ascending the pyramid, was to be enabled to say at some future time that I had been at its summit. I cannot, however, understand on what grounds it can be asserted that the ascent or descent is not attended with danger. I may not be considered a competent witness, but it was the unanimous opinion of the gentlemen who mounted with me, that in many places if a person made a false step he would be dashed to pieces. Two of our party paced one side of the pyramid simultaneously, and both made the length two hundred and sixty yards. The area of Lincoln's-Inn-Fields has been adduced as a means of judging of the bulk of this pyramid; and I heard at Alexandria of a calculation made by a Frenchman, that it contains stone enough to build a wall round the whole of France, ten feet high, and one foot broad. I conclude

he meant the France of the Bourbons, not that of Buonaparte*.

The pyramid of Cephrenes is about ten minutes walk from the great one, (called that of Cheops). The celebrated Sphinx, which is at the foot of the former, has only its face and part of the back uncovered; the inscription, and the temple between the fore paws, have been purposely closed up with sand, to preserve them. The third of the pyramids of Ghizeh, called that of Mycerinus, is much smaller than the other two, and, after them, is no object of curiosity. Upon the whole,

* "The pyramids of Djizeh, the largest and most remarkable of this stupendous class of monuments, stand upon a bed of rock, 150 feet above the Desert, which contributes to their being seen at so great a distance. The largest of the three, which, on the authority of Herodotus, is ascribed to Cheops, is a square of 746 feet, and its perpendicular height is 461 feet, being 24 feet higher than St. Peter's at Rome, and 117 feet higher than St. Paul's at London." —The quantity of stone used in this pyramid is estimated at six millions of tons, "which is just three times that of the vast breakwater thrown across Plymouth Sound;" and a hundred thousand men are said to have been employed for twenty years in raising this empty sepulchre!—*Modern Traveller—Egypt*, part 2, page 297—299.

I was disappointed with these wonders of the world; probably, because my anticipations had been too much raised. We read and hear of them from our earliest youth, and are told constantly of their magnitude, till our imagination exalts them so much, that no reality is likely to come up to our expectations.

Leaving the rest of our party to proceed to the pyramids of Dashour and Saccara, I prepared to return home, accompanied by Mr. Maltas (the Vice-Consul), my maid, and the chioush. We were followed by troops of Arabs, who had been our guides at the pyramids, and who now endeavoured to outstrip each other, that they might be employed to carry us across an intervening stream, too deep for the donkeys to wade. The largeness of the party had kept them under restraint in the morning, when I crossed without danger, but at this time they actually fought for the bucksees. Two seized me on their shoulders, a third

took my feet, a fourth my parasol, another my bag, and in their anxiety for the rewards which were distributed by Mr. Maltas, who crossed first, they almost dropped me into the water—as it was, their impatience was so great, that they put me down in the mud, and rushed upon poor Mr. Maltas, who was almost pulled to pieces in the conflict which ensued. I was mentioning the above circumstance, when I was told of their stopping a gentleman when half-way up the pyramid, and throwing his hat over, saying at the same time, if he did not give them bucksees, he should follow!

As the evening was shutting in fast after we had recrossed the Nile, we expected to find some difficulty in entering the city gates, which are always closed two hours after sunset, and nobody is then permitted to pass without a lantern*.

* These lanterns, which are far different from the same articles used in England, are made of white or coloured paper, in the shape

We, however, reached the Frank quarter just in time, and escaped the fate of a military friend, who, on returning from a similar expedition, without this necessary equipment, was lodged in the guard-house, where he remained all night with the soldiers, who treated him civilly, giving him coffee and pipes, and at daylight allowed him to depart.

I learnt from the gentlemen, on their return, that the pyramids of Abousir and Saccara were scarcely worth seeing after those at Ghizeh; particularly the pyramids at Abousir, which are very small; though that at Saccara, which is built in stages, has a singular appearance. The interior is said to consist of two chambers, gradually inclining to a great height. Near were some sarcophagi, lately excavated by Signor Caviglia, in beautiful preservation. Several

of the old-fashioned elastic powder-puffs: when lighted and ornamented with streamers, they give to a crowded street a very gay and Arabian Nights-like appearance.

in limestone resemble the wooden mummy coffins in form, and in the figure of the head on the lid. One of granite has the roof-shaped operculum, the sides within and without covered with hieroglyphics, figures of Anubis, &c., mystical boats and processions, as in the Tomb of the Kings, and on the bottom is a large figure of Isis, all cut in intaglio.

The double-angled Pyramid of Dashour was described to me as an admirable structure, possessing more beauty than that of Cheops, though yielding to it in magnitude by about eighty or ninety feet in the square. This superiority is caused by a coating of stone, which gives its surface the appearance of unbroken masonry. In visiting these monuments people go expressly to wonder at their size: this object accomplished, they rarely look to any thing beyond. Hence the Dashour Pyramid seldom meets with that attention which its elegant construction seems

to deserve. Its upper angles are still perfect, but the lower corners and sides of the north-western angle have been deplorably injured, as before-mentioned, to furnish stone for the Dufturdar's palace. It is lamentable that he should have selected this pyramid, which is the most perfect, for his purpose, while there are several in the vicinity already in a state of dilapidation. The interior is said to be inaccessible.

The brick pyramid is nearer the river, and its form has been much altered by the falling in of its materials. The bricks are of a large size, formed of earth and straw, bits of which latter are every where perceptible. It is said formerly to have borne an inscription upon it, the purport of which is as follows :—

> "Despise me not in comparison with pyramids of stone: for I excel them as far as Jupiter surpasses the other gods. Men thrust poles into the swamp, and collecting the mud that adhered to them, formed bricks, and in this manner was I constructed."

The very mention of straw and bricks

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carries us back to the times of Pharaoh, in whose reign the unhappy children of Israel heard that nought of their tasks should be diminished, and who were at one period supposed to have been the builders of these mighty fabrics; and I should have liked to yield to the error, which I have sometimes heard mentioned, that one of these monuments was erected to the memory of that Joseph, who had, by his predictions, saved the land from the extreme effects of famine.

It is impossible but that the pyramids must have been the work of some despotic monarch, who could command the unlimited services of his subjects, in the same manner as the present Pasha enforced the labour of his Arab vassals to construct the canal of Mahoudiah *; an undertaking so wonderful

* This work is about forty-eight miles in length, ninety feet in breadth, and from fifteen to eighteen in depth. At one time above 250,000 men were employed in the excavation, which was completed in about six weeks!—*Quarterly Review.*

in reference to the celerity with which it was completed. If any excuse can be alleged for such oppression, it should be made, not for the pyramids by which mankind have no wise benefited, but in favour of a work of immense utility, which deserves an infinitely higher place in our estimation, than those huge but useless monuments of caprice and ostentation.

From the pyramids, the gentlemen visited Signor Caviglia, a man most disinterestedly devoted to the pursuits of science. He was living in a miserable hut, reconciled to ill health, and almost every privation, by the satisfaction of having, through his discoveries, fixed the long doubtful site of the city of Memphis. Close to his hut was lying the colossal statue, which he excavated three or four years ago. This statue has the name of Ameen mi Ramses (or Sesostris) engraved on it in six places. It was lying partly on its face, but the features and smiling expres-

sion of countenance, like the designs in the Tombs of the Kings at Thebes, were easily discernible; the head-dress is high, and the sides of it resemble that of the Sphinx at the Pyramid of Cephrenes. A dagger is stuck in the girdle, which latter is covered with hieroglyphics and ornaments; below hangs a kilt in the Roman style; the hands fall on either side; the back and feet of the statue are mutilated, but the features and front of the body look as if just dismissed from the artist's hands. The statue, which is about thirty-five feet in length, being too unwieldy to be removed entire, it was proposed to send it to England in three pieces. The necessity of a division is greatly to be lamented, but I conclude it was unavoidable *. If this be the statue of Sesostris, of which there seems no doubt, the site of Memphis is ascertained, for we learn from ancient history, that Sesostris placed a

* It is stated in a letter from Mr. Champollion, lately published, that there is at Turin a counter part of this statue.

colossal statue of himself within the foundations of that city *. There were many indications of statues and other relics of antiquity in the vicinity; but Signor Caviglia said that, though it would be highly interesting to extend his researches in this quarter, he was without funds for the purpose.

The spot where the statue in question was found may be known by a large tank of water, and a fine grove of date-trees.

On their return, the gentlemen crossed the Nile, to examine the immense quarries, whence the stones of the pyramids are supposed to have been taken. One of these excavations, which are exceedingly capacious, it was calculated might alone contain 50,000 men.

* The present level of the soil appears to be ten or twelve feet higher than when the statue fell.

CHAPTER XIII.

Sardinian Consul's Ball—The Pasha's Military School—Lithographic Press—Dufturdar's Palace—Tragic end of Ismael Pasha—Encomium on the Pasha's conduct with respect to Strangers—Tyranny towards his own Subjects.

THE Sardinian Consul having kindly asked me to a ball, I gladly availed myself of the invitation, that I might judge of the state of foreign manners in the Egyptian capital. My wishes, however, were in some degree disappointed, as the party was thinly attended, for reasons which generally prevail in small societies. I was struck with the extraordinary agility of the gentlemen; they danced with a zeal, spirit, and indefatigability worthy of a better cause. The ladies, on the contrary, were very quiet, and danced languidly. Every dance which was called, with the exception of one quadrille, was *une*

contredanse Anglaise; and, strange to say, by no effort of example or explanation, for I just got up to show them, could even the common figure of the lady turning the gentleman, and the gentleman turning the lady, down the middle, and up again, be accomplished. One couple would come up to the top after every figure, another went down the middle when they ought to have turned, and about the sixth couple there was such a complete jumble that the consequent clamour became the signal for the band striking up the waltz. Every face brightened, every couple found their place, and they whirled about till they were tired, when again came the effort of memory in the *contredanse Anglaise.* One gentleman, whose agility had been most remarkable, came to beg the honour of dancing with me. I declined, and ended by saying, I never danced. "Jamais! vous ne dansez jamais! et comment vous amusez-vous donc?" I was so amused at the

oddity of such a question, at the wonder expressed in the man's countenance, and at the importance attached to dancing, so little felt by English women, that I could scarcely restrain my laughter.

The Austrian Consul's daughter, a child of six years of age, entered the room by herself, went up to her acquaintance, kissed the ladies first on one cheek, then on the other, and behaved with all the self-possession of one long used to the gay world. Her own hair hung in ringlets on her shoulders; her little head was dressed with a profusion of curls (false I believe), in addition to five bows of pink satin ribbon, and several artificial flowers; whilst a large fan in one hand, and her reticule in the other, gave her the appearance of the little ladies and gentlemen we see in the prints of the days of the ancien régime in France. The poor child danced and waltzed till two in the morning. On one of the ladies telling

me the known fact of the difficulty of rearing European children in Cairo, I hinted that, as the climate was so inimical, double care might be necessary, and perhaps that such late hours and hot rooms might not agree with their health. "Cela se peut; mais comment les amuser, pauvres petites! c'est un pays si triste." I enquired whether this dissipation did not interfere with the schooling next day? "Yes, that was true enough, it turned their heads a little."—"Mais comment les amuser?" was again her question; and then at the risk of being considered very rigid, I told my new acquaintance, that in England, children of that age would generally have bread and milk for supper, and be sent to bed at eight o'clock.

There was no variety in the dress of the ladies excepting two, who were in the Levantine costume. This dress is not pretty, nor agreeable to English taste or decorum. I was amused by a gay little Piedmontese,

who related the adventure of his being on shore at the battle of Navarino, and not finding an adequate place for shelter, he hid himself as well as he was able behind a rock, which, however, proved too small to screen his whole person; so thinking it pleasanter to lose his heels than his head, he placed the latter on the ground, and permitted his legs to remain exposed to the fire of the fleet.

One of the Italian instructors of the Pasha's new levees was at the ball dancing all the evening, and apparently the person in the assembly least likely to have any serious business on his mind; but it was mentioned openly, that the next morning he was engaged to fight a duel. This report would have excited anxiety, had it not been known that Cairo duels are seldom attended with bloodshed, as the Pasha has declared that he does not understand such Frank customs,

and that he who kills a man in his dominions shall be hanged.

The day of our departure from Cairo, I visited the Pasha's Military College. This was such an unprecedented step for a female, and was so much at variance with the established usage of the country, that I expressed some doubt of its propriety, as well as practicability. However, I was not reluctant to have my scruples overruled; and accompanied by the Gentlemen of the party, Osman, and a Chioush, I rode into the first court of the building. In this place there were only a few boys collected; but on entering the quadrangle, I believe the whole fourteen hundred belonging to the College poured out to see the extraordinary spectacle. The presence of the veiled Circassian, celebrated by Hajji Baba, on the play-ground of Eton or Westminster, could not have excited half so much astonishment as the sight of a lady on a side-

saddle in the English costume created among the multitude of Greeks, Turks, and Mamalukes, great and small, here assembled.

When the phenomenon before them was ascertained to be really a Frank woman, a shout so long and so loud was raised, that my ears and eyes almost failed, and the crowd continuing to thicken and press around me, I felt my situation rather disagreeable. Fortunately the din of the tumult roused one of the masters, a few lashes of whose whip caused the poor boys to retreat, and satisfy their curiosity at a greater distance. This afforded me an opportunity of escaping up stairs, where the professor of mathematics, an old Italian, received us civilly, and gave us some insight into the details of the Institution. He said the boys knew neither French, Italian, nor Latin; that though they were learning these languages, yet with such disqualifications, he found great difficulty in teaching them mathematics; the Pasha's or-

der, however, to this effect was peremptory, and must be obeyed. He had commenced with seven grown-up pupils, who had made some progress, and who, when qualified, were in their turn to become instructors; but "These," said he, "were married, and only day-scholars, and thought more of their wives and children, than of their studies."

The Persian professor was also an Italian; and although he had travelled in Persia, did not know enough of the language to understand what was addressed to him by one of the party in that tongue.

Besides these professors, there were other instructors, chiefly Italians, who, in addition to their own language, taught Arabic, Turkish, and French, besides botany and arithmetic.

Of the pupils, three hundred were military conscripts, one hundred and fifty Greek slaves, and the rest Turkish boys from Roumelia, a few Nubians, and many

Egyptians, who were either Mamalukes, or slaves of the Pasha. These were divided into classes of sixty or a hundred each, every class under an instructor and subordinate monitors. Besides the mathematical students, twenty were learning Persian, a great many French and Italian, and the whole were taught to read and write Turkish and Arabic. It being unfortunately a holiday, we were prevented from seeing the process of instruction; but from the inefficiency of the Persian professor, I should not augur much progress on the part of the scholars; and the Italian mathematician appeared too old to cope with the lively nature of the boys, or to keep pace with the rapidity of the Pasha's wishes. As it is, however, there are only two branches of the education of the college, and it is to be hoped that the others prove more consonant to the enlightened policy which created and fosters this interesting Institution. Of the fourteen hundred boys of which

the college consists, five hundred are boarders, and the rest day-scholars; all appeared healthy, clean, and well clothed.

The munificence of the Pasha allots above six thousand dollars a month to the maintenance of the College; and this, though a small sum, when compared to what would be the expenses of a similar establishment on an equal scale in England, is adequate to its purpose in a country where the necessaries of life are so cheap and abundant.

The Pasha's lithographic and printing presses next engaged our attention. They were apparently well conducted, under the management of a Druse, a native of Mount Lebanon, a young man of polite manners, lively, and intelligent, and one of the many who had been sent by the Pasha to Europe for education. I saw printing in all its branches, from the formation of the letters to the completion of a book. The works already printed were a Turkish History, by

an officer of the Grand Vizier; Correspondence between the Pasha and the Porte; a translation, in Turkish, of some French work on military and naval tactics, with lithographic plates; the Persian poem called the Goolistaun, and some grammars. The presses were made under the superintendence of this Druse, but the paper was of European manufacture.

We then proceeded to the apartments of the superintendent, who conversed in Italian. Here, as is the invariable custom, we were presented with coffee in little China cups, which, instead of saucers, are fixed in cups of silver gilt, or other inferior metal, according to the rank and riches of the owner.

Near Bulac, is a palace building for the Dufturdar Bey. Much of its architecture is light and elegant, though without regard to regularity, for Grecian porticos and Turkish domes and ornaments are mixed together. But the interest I took in the spot arose

from learning that among the numerous granite and marble pillars and broken capitals lying in confusion around, those most to be admired were part of the spoils of Antinoë. Several had been broken to favour transportation, but most of them appeared to have been thrown down, with utter disregard or ignorance of their value. On the walls I observed stone tablets on which were cut hieroglyphical figures, placed without any regard to uniformity, some standing on their head, others on their heels, as little prized as any common material, which might equally answer the purpose of building. Without being an enthusiast, I could not help grieving over these precious monuments of antiquity, and regretting that there was no possibility of rescuing them from the hands of the barbarians, and transporting them to England, where they would be prized as of inestimable value.

On the way to our place of embarkation,

we passed another handsome palace, (in the style of the public buildings at Amsterdam,) formerly the residence of Ismael Pasha, but now converted into a warehouse. Ismael was sent by his father into Nubia, to procure recruits for his army. One of the chiefs of the country begged some little delay, as he had then no slaves ready; but Ismael, striking him, said he would admit of none. "Well, then, my lord, to-morrow, we will see what can be done:" but this morrow did not dawn upon Ismael; for the straw huts which he occupied were set on fire by the Nubians in the night, and he and all his suite perished. The Pasha's army made a severe example of the unfortunate inhabitants in the vicinity, but the real culprits had escaped, far beyond the reach of punishment.

And now embarking on our boats, we bade farewell to Cairo. Well does it deserve the name of Grand; and amply does

it repay the traveller for every hour spent in exploring its singular and striking interior, its pleasant environs, and the numerous interesting objects with which it every where abounds. Still it must be acknowledged that, as a city, it is not so superior in itself, but that it derives much of its estimation from the associations which it presents, and the ancient and romantic hold which it has on our imagination.

While dwelling on the merits of his capital, let me pay a tribute of admiration to the Pasha's enlightened and liberal conduct towards strangers. We had now passed six weeks in Egypt during a season of political agitation, and travelled from Cosseir to Cairo without the slightest interruption or molestation from any class of persons whatever, and without the smallest exaction (unless I so term the cupidity of the Cucheif of Kennah before-mentioned) on the part of the government or its officers, or any demand on account

of customs, fees, or imposts. I wish I could speak as favourably of the Pasha's policy towards his subjects; but in that respect, his views are very confined. In his dominions, the time of his subjects, the fruits of the earth, and the produce of its waters—all he considers exclusively his own. Hence, in travelling, it is needless to ask to whom any thing belongs, for from the huge manufactory to the crop of dried clover, Mahomed Ali is absolute proprietor. If a Fellah sows a little cotton, and his wife spins it into a garment, it is liable to seizure unless it be stamped with the Pasha's mark, as a proof of its having paid duty.

Still, notwithstanding this enormous monopoly, it is to be hoped that the introduction of so many manufactures, though the Arabs, at present, work at them by compulsion, and receive but little pay for their labour, may, in time, have the effect of civi-

lizing the people, and be the means of introducing improvements in a more enlightened and permanent form. Much, however, must depend upon the Pasha's successor. The choice, it is supposed, lies between Ibrahim Pasha, the son of his late wife, and the Dufturdar Bey, who has married his daughter. The latter chief dislikes the Franks, and is particularly hostile to the recent innovations, which he regards with the jealous eye of a Mussulman bigot. The Franks, however, the Pasha never admits to any share of political power, and it is a peculiar feature of his policy, that while he employs French and Italian officers to drill the Arab soldiery, he limits them to the bare duty of instruction, availing himself of European improvement, while he is careful to repress European encroachment. This characteristic jealousy is not confined to the Franks only, but shews itself, occasionally, in his

arbitrary treatment of his own subjects when they venture to offend him by the least infringement of his commands. For instance, a few months ago he had ordered that the dollar should pass for a fixed number of piastres, and it was mentioned in his presence that the rate was not strictly followed. His Highness expressing some doubts of the fact, the head interpreter observed, carelessly, that a Jew-broker, whom he named, had, a few days before, exchanged dollars for him at the rate asserted.—"Let him be hanged immediately," exclaimed the Pasha! The interpreter, an old and favourite servant, threw himself at his sovereign's feet, deprecating his own folly, and imploring pardon for the wretched culprit; but all intercession was in vain—the Pasha said his orders must not be disregarded, and the unfortunate Jew was executed. Let me in justice add, that this was the only instance

of rigour which had occurred for a long time; and his lenity, I might almost say, seemed verified by the miserable appearance of the public executioner, who begged of me in the streets, and by his squalid looks gave strong indication how little his trade flourished.

CHAPTER XIV.

Voyage down the Nile to Fouah—Entrance into the Canal—Vexatious delays—Arrival at Alexandria—Anecdote relative to Diocletian's Pillar—Capture of a Fort by English Sailors—Good humour of the Pasha on the occasion—His magnanimity on hearing of the battle of Navarino—His unpopularity.

The inconveniences of the journey, if I can so term such trifling privations, now commenced, since it was necessary, for the purpose of expedition, that we should embark on a very small cangia, the cabin of which did not admit even of our sitting on chairs, and afforded but narrow accommodation for three persons.

The wind, however, being moderate, our progress down the stream was so rapid, that we reached the entrance of the Mahoudiah Canal on the night after we left Cairo, a voyage which, at that season, is seldom accomplished under five or six days. Here we encountered an unexpected obstacle in

finding, that a mound of earth, about twenty yards broad, separated the Nile from the canal. This involved another change of boats and the troublesome shifting of our baggage.

While employed in these arrangements I was disturbed by hearing from two English travellers, that the Pasha had laid an embargo on all vessels at Alexandria, pending the departure of his fleet with provisions for Greece, and I feared that the delay caused by this ordinance would prove a serious inconvenience, as persons leaving Alexandria late in the season are subjected to a longer quarantine at Malta.

From the low state of the water in the canal we had to embark on board a still smaller boat than the last, the dirt of which was so great, that no effort of mine could purify it. Hitherto we had been singularly free from all annoyances so prevalent in Egypt. By the assistance of a cat, and the

manner in which I had arranged the partitions, I had prevented the entrance of the rats into the cabin, though I had heard them above and all around making their ineffectual attempts. Except a few fleas, I had met with no grievances of the kind usually complained of; and, as most travellers have recorded in their narratives their personal sufferings on this head, I must attribute the absence of vermin to the comfort of female superintendence. The contrary winds compelled us to track all day. Nothing could be more tedious than our snail-like pace, which was still further delayed by mistakes and the mismanagement of the crew of our new boat; nevertheless we reached Alexandria before daybreak, on the 14th, though just too late to see the Pasha, who had stepped into his cangia to proceed to Cairo, as the gentlemen of our party were hastening to visit him. As I also expected to get a glimpse of this extraordinary man, his sudden departure

was the only real disappointment I had met with since the commencement of my travels, and it was a real one to me. The delay, the laziness of the people, the time we had spent in seeing sights of inferior interest at Cairo, for I consider the Pasha as great a wonder as any in his dominions,—in fact every thing which had retarded our progress, now appeared to be intolerable. At the Consulate I saw his portrait, which does not at all represent the face of a tyrant. I heard that great difficulty was experienced in painting this likeness, (from which several copies have been taken,) as the Mussulmans have a religious horror of every kind of picture; and while sitting, the Pasha was compelled to lock himself up with the artist, under pretence of transacting business.

Alexandria was so full of Franks, that we could have no choice of lodgings, and were obliged to put up with some miserable rooms in an okel, or quarter, secured for us by

Mr. Barker, the consul, which seemed the very focus of wretchedness and pestilence. I had heard, too, that the plague was raging in Syria, whence it was expected daily to find its way into Alexandria; and had it reached our vicinity, the narrowness of the passages to our dwelling, and the utter impossibility of shutting it up, rendered escape from contagion almost hopeless. I observed that the lower class of Franks in the streets were a better race of people than those at Cairo, for many I saw there were a disgrace to the name of Europeans—dirty, squalid, and full of disease, brought on apparently by intemperance rather than the effects of climate; for the Greeks, native Christians, Jews, Turks, and Arabs generally, had a strong, healthy, and active appearance. Alexandria itself is dirty to a degree. The only cleanly or airy looking part of the town, is a sort of square inhabited by the Consuls; but the approach to this quarter, even on donkeys,

involves a difficult navigation through pools of water, mud, and dirt. On foot the streets are scarcely passable for a lady; but perhaps I saw them in their worst state, as, notwithstanding the proverbial dryness of the climate, we had experienced for the last fortnight a succession of gales with wet weather. I was enabled, however, to make excursions to the few objects of curiosity in the vicinity. The catacombs were closed against us in consequence of the erection of a new fort near them; but I visited Diocletian's, commonly called Pompey's, Pillar; the two Obelisks, Cleopatra's Needle standing, the other prostrate (the latter has so long been on its way to England, that I fear it will now never arrive;) and the Pasha's palace, not yet finished, and less magnificent than those at Cairo and Shoobra.

The splendid pillar of Diocletian surpassed in my opinion every thing of the kind I had ever seen: to view it in perfection, it is, how-

ever, necessary to stand close under it, and to keep out of sight the numerous English names, in large black letters, which deface one side of the polished shaft and perpetuate the bad taste of the writers. On the anniversary of the battle of Alexandria some of the officers and crew of His Majesty's ship —— hoisted the English ensign and the Pasha's colours at the top of this pillar. This was not agreeable to his Highness, who desired the Arabs to take the flags down. After various attempts, they found it impossible, and some of our own tars were at length obliged to reascend for this purpose. How Miss Talbot ever succeeded in reaching the top I cannot understand, for the difficulty of the undertaking was great, even to sailors accustomed to climb. The Pasha appears thoroughly to understand the character of our sailors, as the following occurrence seems to prove.

One Sunday he received intelligence that

a small fort at the entrance of the harbour had been taken possession of by certain Franks, and that the Turks belonging to it had been made prisoners. Some consternation prevailed among his people, but instead of being angry he laughed heartily, and swearing by his two eyes, (his favourite oath,) that they must be English sailors, he directed his interpreter to write to their captain, to order his men on board ship again. Upon inquiry it proved as the Pasha had anticipated; the men had landed, got drunk, and crowned their liberty by seizing on the fort and confining the unfortunate Turks, who, indolently smoking their pipes, never could have anticipated such an attack in time of profound peace.

I visited with great interest the field of battle where Sir Ralph Abercrombie fell, and the Bay of Aboukir, which is at the distance of eight or ten miles. After wandering a considerable time among the French redoubts,

I picked up a few musket-shot, the evidence of the modern battle, and some ancient coins, the relics of many hundred years. The spot is too well known to require description; but the heart must be cold indeed, which can, for the first time, view these scenes, and reflect upon the events which have occurred there, without lively emotion.

After all, in truth, the most striking and interesting sight is the Mediterranean itself, which rolls into the harbour of Alexandria; its waters as blue and as transparent as Lord Byron has described them. These classic waves I first saw in a deep calm. It was succeeded by a storm which agitated them to a tremendous height, and placed in jeopardy the numerous ships at anchor in the port. This storm, however, besides affording a grand sight, was of substantial use to us, for it detained a fleet bound to Malta, and thus enabled us to leave a country in which our residence had ceased to be agreeable.

Among the ships lying in the harbour was the wreck of one of the Pasha's own vessels. The captain had committed some crime, which was represented by his crew to the Pasha, who ordered him immediately on shore to answer his accusers. Knowing his guilt, he pretended sickness, till a second message from the Pasha left him no alternative; and unable longer to evade his fate, he sent all his crew on shore, and calling to an old and faithful servant, the only person on board, he bade him jump out of the port; at the same time loading two pistols, he fired into the magazine, and blew up the ship and himself together. When the story was related to the Pasha, he said, "These are Frank customs: this is dying like an Englishman *."

* A similar, but more atrocious instance of desperation, occurred, it is said, a short time ago at Valparaiso, or some other port in South America. The commander of an English vessel, being pressed by his creditors, invited some of them to dinner, and during the meal went down to the gun-room, where, setting fire to the powder, he destroyed himself and his guests, by blowing up the stern of the ship.

The agitation excited by the battle of Navarino seemed to have totally subsided, and it was curious to see English and French frigates lying peaceably alongside a Turkish man-of-war, which bore evident marks of the dreadful conflict in which the forces of the three nations had so recently been engaged. The magnanimity evinced by the Pasha, when he first heard of the event which destroyed his navy and humbled his power, was highly honourable to his character. He had not finished the perusal of the unwelcome tidings, when he desired Mr. Wolmas to assure the Franks that they should not be molested, and that they might pursue their occupations as heretofore, in perfect security.

But notwithstanding the kindness which the Pasha manifests towards the Franks, he is not popular with those at Alexandria, in consequence of the dulness of trade, resulting from his monopolies. Neither has he friends among the Turks or Arabs, the

former complaining that the new system of tactics has thrown them out of employment, while the latter hate him for forcing them into the military service. On the whole, the best informed persons said that the state of his government rendered him very anxious, especially as he had already incurred the displeasure of the Porte, by repeatedly urging the Sultan to acquiesce in the demands of the allies.

His country, too, was nearly ruined by the Greek war, not only from the vast sums he had expended in his co-operation with the Porte, but also from the depopulation occasioned by the hosts of troops whom he had been compelled to send into the Morea, thereby draining his provinces of their cultivators.

At the house of the English Consul I had the pleasure of seeing Lady ——, whose interesting projects enhanced the gratification of meeting with a countrywoman in that

distant land. Her ladyship meditated the establishment of a school at Jerusalem, for the superintendence of which she was qualifying herself by the assiduous study of Arabic *. On the feasibility and utility of this plan opinions may differ, but nobody, I think, can witness its author's self-devotion without wishing that it may be rewarded by success.

Our stay at Alexandria was limited to four days, on the last of which divine service was performed at the Consulate, and a very long but not a bad sermon preached in English, by a Swiss missionary, attired in a Turkish dress, forming a heterogeneous compound for the pulpit.

* Lady —— was encouraged to adopt this benevolent project, by the success which had attended Mrs. Wilson's exertions in educating native females at Calcutta, once considered as hopeless an undertaking there as that in which Lady —— proposed to embark.

CHAPTER XV.

Departure from Alexandria—Severe weather in the Mediterranean—Difference of Asiatic and European Navigation—Arrival at Malta—Lazaretto.

THE next morning, the 18th of February, we embarked on board the Columbia, an English merchantman of five hundred tons, laden with the Pasha's cotton, consigned to Liverpool. The breeze being light, we were a whole day passing the bar, which is an affair of some difficulty and anxiety in a large ship, when the wind is not quite favourable. This was our case, but under the skilful guidance of an old man, at whom I looked with much interest on hearing that he was Lord Nelson's pilot at the battle of the Nile, we got safe over at eight o'clock P.M., when I took my last view of the shores of Egypt.

It must not be supposed, because the Columbia was of the respectable size of five hundred tons, that we had suitable accommodation. The whole ship was crowded with cotton, a small portion of which had been removed from the cabin to afford just sufficient space for our own beds, while my maid was *located* in the corner on the remaining bales. These had been so loosened by a separation from the rest, that every night of bad weather, I expected some of them to *fetch way*, as they say on board ship, and smother us in their fall.

During the first six days the wind was strong and favourable, and brought us almost within sight of our destined port; but for the remainder of the voyage, which lasted ten days longer, the weather became very boisterous and adverse. I had been three times round the Cape of Good Hope, and yet, whether from lapse of time or increase of timidity, it seemed to me that I

had never before witnessed such alarming storms.

Those who have only read of the dark blue sea of the Mediterranean, as depicted by the author of the Corsair, must not form their idea of the gales we experienced from his description, but rather rely upon a later Poet, who thus apostrophises the stormy ocean:—

> "Tremendous art thou! in thy tempest ire,
> When the mad surges to the clouds respire;
> And like new Apennines from out the sea,
> Thy waves march on in mountain majesty*."

Navigation is differently conducted in the East and in the West. Our little brig, the Palinurus, of one hundred and ninety tons, had a complement of seventy men; whereas a crew of twenty, officers included, managed the Columbia, and excellently too, though I could not help shuddering sometimes at night while scudding at the rate of ten or eleven knots an hour, to see

* Montgomery's Omnipresence of the Deity.

the wheel in the hands of a weakly boy of sixteen, who shifted it with the greatest difficulty.

We were within view of Malta four days before the inexorable gale allowed us to reach it; to add to our vexation, the Dryad frigate passed us one evening, and by being able to "lay closer" to the wind, got into Malta six and thirty hours before us. Still we had cause to congratulate ourselves on having taken our passage in an English ship, as some of my acquaintances, who sailed the same day with us in a Maltese vessel, did not arrive till a fortnight afterwards.

The approach to Malta is very beautiful. The entrance into the Quarantine Harbour is so narrow, that it is necessary to tow ships into it. For this purpose numerous boats are always ready, whose lofty prows, like those of the Roman gallies, betoken a form of ancient date, and being rowed by men with

their faces to the bows, exhibit a very singular appearance.

After anchoring, we were hailed by the Port Captain, and our seamen and passengers mustered at the gangway; when, on its being ascertained that we were all well, the boat was permitted to approach sufficiently near for us to drop our letters into a bucket for fumigation, and we were ourselves allowed to row to the Lazaretto.

I should have been cautious not to trouble my readers with the ennui occasioned by my seclusion in the Lazaretto, had I endured any. But, in truth, I felt none. I had led such a wandering and fatiguing life for some time past, and been so harassed by the tempestuous weather of the Mediterranean, that the tranquillity of the confinement was as agreeable to my feelings, as it was beneficial to my health.

The Lazaretto is an extensive building, situated on an islet, having Fort Emanuel,

where the military and persons of rank under quarantine are quartered, at its back.

We had three large and airy apartments up stairs, from the windows of which there was a good view of the harbour and surrounding country.

Excepting a couple of tables and a few chairs, the rooms were quite empty; but fortunately, we were supplied with our own camp-beds, and the few cups and plates which had escaped from the shocks of land and sea, and soon made ourselves comfortable.

Each family or party has a guardian appointed to take charge of them, and each vessel has two. The duty of these men is to prevent contact between persons whose period of confinement is different, and to secure their not touching those who are not in quarantine. You may receive company in the Parlatorio, or on the terraces of the building, being careful to keep at a distance, for if you put your finger on a visi-

ter's dress, he would be condemned to the same term of confinement as yourself. It is amusing to observe the caution of the officers of the establishment, and the nimbleness with which they fly from any apprehended approximation to themselves on the part of the prisoner; and this caution is again learned by the latter, who in his turn becomes equally distrustful of a new occupant of the Lazaretto, lest his own durance should be prolonged by the other's touch. Provisions are supplied by a person called a Spenditore, who brings the articles required on his own account, or from an hotel at Valetta.

Though the accommodations are excellent, a just complaint may be made of the unnecessary privation of exercise, to which persons in quarantine are subjected. We were only allowed to walk on a small ill-paved terrace about sixty feet long, which though pleasant enough in the cool

season, must be intolerable in summer on account of the heat. I cannot perceive any good reason why a suitable place for exercise might not be allotted on the islet, which is sufficiently capacious to admit of this indulgence without hazard of unauthorized communication.

The Lazaretto is shut up from twelve till two, when the persons in charge of it go to their dinner, and from sun-set, when they return home, till seven the next morning. I know not what would become of its inmates in case of sudden illness—but people never seem to think of such a danger in this favoured climate, which to me who have long lived in the regions of fever and cholera, is an event of no rare occurrence; and where, in the latter case, the delay of an hour in procuring assistance would, in all probability, prove the death of the sufferer.

Strange as it may appear, I never could gain any accurate account of the duration of

quarantine, until I was myself actually immured, and the fiat of the superintendent had pronounced my doom, which proved irreversible—no appeal, no remission; and his words might have been,

"Lasciate ogni speranza, voi ch' entrate."

The period of quarantine for vessels and passengers from the eastward is generally twenty-five days; under the most favourable circumstances it is never less than twenty-two, the day of entrance and departure being included. The latter was our case, though little was it known at that time either to the superintendent or ourselves, that two deaths, supposed to be from plague, had occurred at our okel at Alexandria, previously to our departure. A deduction is also made in favour of king's ships.

The quarantine establishment consists of a superintendent, a captain of the Lazaretto, a clerk, and about eighty guardians, besides persons whose duty it is to smoke packets

and letters. The expenses are moderate. The business appears to be conducted in an excellent manner, and with great courtesy and civility on the part of the superintendent and his subordinates.

The time of our emancipation having arrived, we repaired to Beverley's hotel, the superior accommodation of which, after the Bedouin life we had been leading for some months past, and the confinement of the Lazaretto, was highly acceptable.

CHAPTER XVI.

Beauty of Malta—Want of sufficient accommodation for the Protestant Congregation—Miscellaneous Observations—Hospitality of the English Residents.

MALTA is certainly a most singular island. I was delighted with the views from the ramparts, and astonished at its fortifications, the height of which in some places is one hundred and thirty feet perpendicular. On various parts of the ramparts are the tombs of Sir Ralph Abercrombie, Sir Alexander Ball, Sir Thomas Maitland, Sir Thomas Freemantle, and the Marquess of Hastings. At present only plain flat stones are placed over the remains of Sir Thomas Maitland and Lord Hastings. The government, I heard, offered to erect a monument at the public expense to the former; but it was understood, on the island, that the offer was declined in consequence of the wish

of his family to fulfil that duty. The whole vicinity is covered by a most exuberant profusion of geraniums almost perpetually in full bloom, together with other gay flowers and shrubs, whose gaudy appearance divests the place of its solemnity.

Lord Hastings was much beloved by the inhabitants of the island, some of whom, before his grave was inclosed with an iron railing, placed two or three ornamental tributes on the slab. One of them is a cushion of stone, on which the following lines are engraved:—

"Hastings defleto Melite dat Florea seda,
Nam grato assurgit pectore vividior."

I was told that the translation of these lines is rather unmanageable.

The palace contains some tolerable paintings, but the tapestry is admirable. Of this I saw counterparts afterwards at Fontainebleau. The armoury has been admirably arranged by the chief engineer. The roof of the

building being weak, the beams of it required support, which Colonel Whitmore contrived to afford, not only in an unobjectionable, but in a pleasing and tasteful manner, by placing props of wood at regular distances, so disguised with pikes and pistols, as to present the appearance of ornamental columns.

St. John's Church is a splendid edifice, but is most conspicuous, as is well known, for its exquisite and unique mosaic pavement, formed by the inlaid marble gravestones of the knights of the order. In one of the chapels on the right are two or three fine marble monuments, one of which comprises an admirable picture, in mosaic, of one of the Grand Masters. Here, also, is a silver gate, which was preserved from the rapacity of the French, by the simple precaution of covering it with black paint.

When the island was ceded to the British, Sir Thomas Maitland received orders, according to the strict construction of the capi-

tulation, to appropriate the cathedral of St. John to the Protestant worship; but with correct judgment and good feeling, he referred the case back to the home government, representing how much the religious prejudices of the Maltese were interested in the retention of the church for the Roman Catholic rites as formerly; endeared to them also, as it was, by containing the remains of their illustrious ancestors, and how essential he felt it to conciliate their attachment, by yielding to their expectations on this point. The application was successful, and a portion of the Protestant congregation, exclusive of the military, is now accommodated in the chapel belonging to the palace. But this act of national self-denial is attended with inconvenience, as the chapel does not contain above one-third of the persons who might resort to it. It may be doubted, however, whether the sacrifice has increased the respect of the Maltese,

whose religious zeal can scarcely be satisfied with the numerous splendid churches in which it is exhibited, while the fervour of their Protestant rulers is compressed within the walls of one humble and insufficient chapel.

There are several churches in the town of Valetta worth visiting, and its being Holy Week they were thronged with devotees; indeed Malta appeared to me to be the hot-bed of catholicism; I have never since seen it carried to such excess. Processions were hourly passing through the streets with many of the Scripture scenes represented as literally as possible. Among them was our Saviour hanging on the cross; a boy, dressed in sheepskin, representing St. John the Baptist; a baby, as the Infant Saviour, &c. &c. In some of these processions walked people, who, I was afterwards told, were of the first consideration in the town, dragging many yards of heavy chains at

their heels; but the most astonishing instance of superstition was that which occurred on Good Friday; all the bells of the churches were stopped, and a noise succeeded, like that of a hundred watchmen's rattles, which upon enquiry I found was caused by stones shaken in a box, intended to represent the grinding of Judas's bones!! Mass was performed both day and night during the whole week, and I should speak favourably of the religion of the Maltese, if I had to judge of its sincerity by the decorum of their behaviour at church.

A short distance from Valetta the Governor has a country seat, named St. Antonio; it is a lovely spot, and would be considered such in any country, but here its shade and coolness are felt doubly refreshing from the absence of these advantages in other parts of the island.

In the garden I found Loquats superior to those in India, also the Teparree, or Cape gooseberry, called by a variety of names,

and oranges in full fruit. The white nectarine, the peach, apricot, and fig are, I understood, of the most exquisite flavour and in great abundance. Flowers from every part of the world appear to make this garden their native soil—beautiful climbers of all sorts, ixias, justicias, geraniums as large as shrubs; the yucca gloriosa, and the night-blowing cereus, surprised me as growing in the open air, by the side of violets, polyanthuses, roses, cowslips, ranunculuses, and other more hardy plants.

Malta contains about 100,000 inhabitants, and Gozo 20,000. The revenue of the islands is under 100,000*l.*, of which a large portion is derived from a very low duty on spirits and wine. Spirits and inferior wines pay 1½*d.* a gallon, and the better kinds of wines 2*d.* a bottle, and yet it will hardly be believed that the consumption of the latter is so great that the produce of the tax on it does not fall short of the annual sum of 10,000*l.*

30,000*l.* of the revenue is devoted to the maintenance of hospitals and other charitable institutions; of this sum, the School of Industry, founded by Lord Hastings, draws 2500*l.* per annum. This establishment is on a very liberal scale, and supports three hundred girls and a few very old men. Public subscriptions are also received; but the aggregate contributions not being equal to the expenditure, forty girls had lately been dismissed. There might probably be difficulty in interfering with the prejudices of the Roman Catholics, and additional expense and indulgence on that account be requisite; otherwise, I should venture to say, that the children here, as in many similar institutions, are brought up with a degree of luxury, both as respects their accommodation, food and habits, which is likely to unfit them to encounter with cheerfulness the hardships of servitude, to which, in after life, they must necessarily be exposed.

The island, though very fruitful, does not grow corn sufficient for its consumption. The importation of grain is subject to no restrictions, but the government always keeps a certain quantity in store to check excessive prices. The grain is preserved in large pits, the mouths of which are covered with circular stones, and the apertures being hermetically closed with cement, it does not suffer from damp. Much to my surprise, I learned here that Sicily, formerly the granary of Europe, no longer exports corn, for the supplies of which Malta is now principally indebted to Egypt.

The monopoly of ice is granted to an individual, who imports it in immense quantities from Sicily, and who is liable to a penalty of five guineas for every hour he may be without a suitable supply during the summer. It is well known that in the southern parts of Europe ice is indispensable to the poorer classes, and the privation of it would not

only affect the health of the population, but probably excite a commotion.

To quit the subject of Malta without acknowledging the kindness I experienced there, would be an excess of ingratitude. Indeed, wherever I stopped, on my long journey, I had received very obliging attentions; but Malta is the land of hospitality, where society is on the most liberal footing, and where a stranger is welcomed with a degree of warmth and cordiality truly engaging. In this spirit of kind consideration, Sir Edward Codrington, then commanding the station, authorised our acceptance of Sir Thomas Fellowes's offer to convey us, in the Dartmouth frigate *, to Syracuse.

* Sir Thomas Fellowes had two of his sons, one a child of nine years old, on board the Dartmouth at the battle of Navarino. These young midshipmen behaved with a coolness scarcely to be expected at their tender age; and during the action, the elder, only twelve himself, had the admirable good sense and feeling to keep his brother out of their father's sight, lest the latter's anxiety should be excited.

CHAPTER XVII.

Favourable passage to Syracuse—Dionysius's Ear, &c.—Leutini—Catania—Ceremonial at the Cathedral—Admirable situation of Taurominium—Messina.

We embarked in the evening, and the wind being strong and favourable, we lay-to till near daylight, to avoid approaching the coast at night, and about ten o'clock entered the magnificent harbour of Syracuse, having as we approached a fine view of Etna, with its top unclouded and sprinkled with snow.

Our first visit on landing was to Dionysius's Ear. This celebrated cavern may be reasonably imagined to bear the form of an ear; and from its security, the mark of rivets in the wall, and its general appearance, my conviction will not allow me to doubt that it was used for the purpose of a prison, as stated in history. The echo in the main hollow is very distinct; but it is

still more perfect in the small cave above, on the right hand of the entrance of the cavern, where the tyrant, it is said, took up his position when he desired to overhear the conversation of his prisoners. The natives have a way of reaching the top, with which they would not acquaint us, saying it was far too precipitous for us to attempt. It is their interest to make the ascent difficult, and the only method, they pretended, by which we could accomplish it, was by being drawn up in a chair—both it and the rope, however, from which it was suspended, looked so fragile, that I would not venture upon the enterprise. Nevertheless, one of our party was hoisted up in this perilous manner to the cave, (which is, I should think, about sixty or seventy feet high,) whence to my astonishment he answered the questions we put to him in a low whisper from beneath, without difficulty, or hesitation.

We afterwards visited the remains of the

theatre and amphitheatre, the view from which is delightful—the Capuchin convent in the vicinity not worth seeing—the cathedral, built on the remains of an ancient Temple of Minerva; and lastly the Fountain of Arethusa, where we saw the usual number of old women washing in the stream. One of them offered me a glass in which to drink some water from the pool, but I was apprehensive that its purity might have been injured by these Naiads, and declined.

There being no roads sufficiently good in Sicily to allow of wheel carriages, I travelled upon a mule, and hired a lettega, the usual conveyance of priests and females, as a shelter in the event of bad weather. In shape it resembles a double sedan-chair, or the body of a shabby vis-a-vis; and being slung, not between camels like my tukhte-rowan, but between mules, proved a much less uneasy vehicle. The state of the road and

the distance not admitting of our going direct to Catania, we proceeded to Lentini to sleep, and here we experienced the advantage of having brought with us our camp equipage; for, except a very dirty room, we found no accommodation, as the beds were so disgusting, it would have been impossible to rest in them. We were obliged to send out into the town for provisions, but the bread alone was good—superior, perhaps, to any in Europe, except that in Spain. The flour is of the finest quality, of a pale sulphur colour—whether artificial, or the natural tint of the corn, I did not ascertain. I was the more surprised at the excellence and abundance of the bread, when I was told that the Sicilians annually had to import grain, the island not yielding sufficient even for the consumption of its thin population. Lentini is close to a small lake, and, though prettily situated, is considered very unhealthy. Indeed, one cannot help being

shocked at the squalid features of its inhabitants, and the generally wretched appearance of the town.

The country as far as Catania was not very striking—but we had Etna in front of us, which we were continually approaching, and of which we had so clear a view as to perceive the English house, near the summit, about eight thousand feet above the level of the sea, looking like a large black slab in the surrounding snow. The landlord of our inn, Signor Abbate, who is a distinguished guide, said we could not reach the top in consequence of a recent fall of snow, and I was rather glad at the time to be furnished with a decent excuse for avoiding a toilsome excursion, which I suspect does not repay one for the certainty of great fatigue and the risk of illness with which it is attended.

The view of Catania, at a distance, was splendid; its white palaces glittering in the sun, surrounded by dark and verdant foliage.

But upon a nearer approach, the city wore a melancholy appearance, from the ruined state of the houses, which had not been regularly repaired since they were injured by the last earthquake. In fact, scarcely a wall remains entire; but it is almost impossible to judge of the effects of this calamity, without having beheld the pleasant plains in the vicinity of a burning mountain, converted into huge masses of black lava, now as hard as rock, and recollecting that these had once been streams of liquid fire. There are, however, still some buildings in a perfect state, such as the cathedral, the Benedictine church, and a convent. One street, called Strada Stersicorea, is of immense length, presenting a beautiful vista, terminated by the venerable Etna.

I witnessed at the cathedral a grand ceremonial of the inauguration of a new Bishop of Catania. There was little decorum observable in the spectators, principally composed of priests, who appeared, instead of

devout actors in the scene, to have come, like ourselves, only to enjoy the show. In consequence of the noise, it was impossible to hear any thing said by the bishop, archbishop, or officiating priests: seeing, however, some clergymen reading out of books, I fancied, if I could catch a glimpse of a few words, I might gain a knowledge of what was passing; but looking over the shoulder of one of the priests for this purpose, I found his manual was an Italian play.

The ride from Catania to Giarra was most delightful. We made a detour of two miles in order to visit the church Del Ermittagio, from the terrace of which is a splendid view over an extensive plain, studded with towns, Ai Reale, and several others, and bounded by the sea. The rocks of the Cyclops lay below us, and the mountains of Calabria crowned the distance, while on the left rose Etna in all its glory, on whose sides were seen numerous white villages and farmhouses sparkling in the sunshine. We

passed lovely gardens full of orange and lemon trees, bearing fruit and blossoms at the same time; and over the walls in front of the houses hung roses, carnations, and double stocks of an immense size. Even the very weeds on the roadside sprang up and blossomed like elegant flowers, in colours of yellow, pink, blue, and scarlet, of the brightest hues.

Still, I had only to look to the beds of lava in the vicinity for this gay scene to vanish from my mind, in the associations raised by the frightful contrast. Torrents of cinders gave a broken, gloomy, and ragged appearance to much of the rich and cultivated country which lay before me. Signor Abbate, who accompanied us, pointed out a small village, whose fate may better exemplify the effects of the calamity I was deploring, than any description of mine. The village had contained one hundred and fifty men, with their wives and children. From the

smallness of the church these were compelled to attend divine service at different times. The women had gone and returned first as usual, and the men occupied their places; but scarcely had they assembled, when an earthquake occurred, which destroyed the priest and the whole of the congregation—absolutely not one man in the village escaped! My informant added that the poor women being left destitute, (here I expected a tale of distress,) resorted to another parish, to recruit for fresh husbands; "for what," said he, "could they do, but settle themselves again in matrimony as soon as possible?"

If the ride to Giarra was delightful, I must search for some stronger word to express the enjoyment I derived from our journey to Fiumi di Nisi, during which every variety of the grand and the lovely in prospect was offered to our view. The route generally lay between the sea on the

right hand and the range of mountains on the left, on whose sides were, as usual, scattered numerous white villages, with churches and convents, all seated amidst the most luxuriant vegetation; and, here and there, on the very summit of a lofty mountain, was perched a castle, to all appearance inaccessible. The town of Mola is situated on the top of an immense rock. We had to ascend towards it in order to reach Taurominium, which is itself one thousand two hundred feet higher than the level of the sea—still Mola towered far above us. Taurominium (an amphitheatre both by nature and art) justifies all the praises which have been lavished on it by travellers, for the views from it combine all that is magnificent in scenery. I can imagine nothing finer in Europe,—I had almost said in the world.

Our lodging at the hamlet of Fiumi di Nisi was as humble as can be imagined; every thing was primitive except the dispo-

sition to overcharge, which seemed to have the usual advantage of modern improvement.

A beautiful ride of eighteen miles, equally lovely with that described above, brought us to Messina. The manner of travelling prevented our making much progress, for the mules seldom go out of a walk, and this method, though it may appear tedious to those accustomed to travel post, affords the best means of seeing the country to advantage; indeed the climate is so delightful, and the various views so attractive, that one ceases to wish for greater celerity. At the time we were in Sicily the roads admitted of no other mode of conveyance, if I may call by the name of roads, paths through rocks, beds of torrents, and any places, in fact, over which the mules could scramble, though frequently the way lay over grassy downs and flowery plains, and the sands and shingles on the sea shore. The communication, however, will be shortly improved,

for in many parts above our heads I saw the people employed in the construction of a new carriage road equal to any in Italy. It is to run from Syracuse through Messina to Palermo; and with the advantage of the steam-vessel, which plies between Naples and the latter place, this road will render Sicily as accessible and as civilized as any other part of southern Europe—still I should be loth to adopt a more refined mode of travelling in exchange for the airy and independent one I have described.

If Messina were not so well known, I should dilate upon the splendour of its situation and the enchanting beauty of its harbour and environs. The city itself has a gay appearance, and the buildings, many of them quite new, give one hopes that it has risen again to opulence, and that the calamitous effects of the last earthquake have ceased to be felt.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Embarkation on a Speronaro for Salerno—Charybdis—Pæstum—Pompeii.

UNFAVOURABLE accounts of the road, and the increasing heat of the weather, induced us to abandon our intention of visiting Palermo; and we resolved on going directly to Naples. No packets or large vessels being procurable, we were compelled to hire a speronaro—a small half-decked boat, rowed by ten men; and though considered a secure conveyance, yet no boat of such a size and construction could either be safe or agreeable on the open seas. The accommodation was so limited, that a gentleman who had accompanied us from Syracuse had just space to creep into a hole below deck, while we spread our bedding above; a canvass awning being the only shelter from the rain

and spray. On the 19th of April, we left Messina, and passed through the Faro, with a fine and favourable breeze. There was nothing alarming in crossing the famous whirlpool, which has long since lost its dangerous character; but the spirit of that person must indeed be dull who could be rocked on the waves of Charybdis without hearing in imagination the barking of Scylla, and, while bounding over a sea consecrated by the fascination of classical embellishment, fail to be animated by recollections fraught with every object of interest and admiration.

Towards evening, we passed near Stromboli, which, though then burning, we did not think it worth while to visit, but desired our captain, as the wind was freshening, to shape his course for Pæstum. Pretending, however, that the breeze would not admit of our making the latter place, he touched at Acropolis, a curious town, built on a precipitous

rock, which presents a bold and singular appearance from the sea. We had intended to proceed by land to Pæstum, but so exorbitant a price was demanded for the mules, that we determined to go by water to Salerno, a measure I heartily repented of at the time, as the wind had increased to a gale, but which, when we had landed in safety, and all our perils were at an end, I was glad had been adopted. It afforded us the opportunity of seeing the Bay of Salerno in perfection. The town, built half-way up a mountain—its summit, crowned with an ancient fortress of the most picturesque shape—Acropolis towering on the neighbouring height, and contrasted with the temples of Pæstum, on the low, damp plain, formed, on the whole, a view scarcely to be equalled by Naples itself.

At day-break next morning, we set off for Pæstum, in a carriage drawn in the ancient style, by four horses abreast—(our boat also was drawn up on the beach, as if it had been

under the orders of Palinurus); and after staying there a couple of hours, we returned to Salerno at eight o'clock. I was gratified by the excursion, not so much, perhaps, from the sight of the temples themselves, as from being able to contrast them with the stupendous monuments we had lately seen; and, without affectation, I may venture to say, that the Egyptian traveller finds it an effort to bestow great admiration on the ruins of Pæstum.

Leaving Salerno, we passed through the most lovely scenery, especially about La Cava. Hanging gardens, interspersed with woods and running streams, sometimes lay planted in deep ravines below the level of the road, sometimes cut in the sides of the mountain, towered high above our heads. A little farther were fields of beans, peas, lupines, and the most brilliant clover; while vineyards, with their vines gracefully trained to the branches of high poplars, bordered

the road as far as Pompeii. The pass of La Cava is indeed one of fairy land.

A far different scene awaited us in the ruins of Pompeii; but as there were many workmen employed in repairs, and a large and boisterous party preceding us, I was disappointed by the interruption to the stillness and desolation which ought to form such a peculiar contrast to the busy din of the inhabited world around. Although, however, the illusion was destroyed, still there was, of course, much of surpassing interest in the examination of this disentombed city; and on subsequently visiting the Studio at Naples, I found the bronzes and other articles, removed there, from Pompeii, by far the most curious objects of that extensive and valuable collection.

Naples is not seen to advantage in coming through Portici, but it is still a grand sight; and justifies the descriptions usually given of it.

CHAPTER XIX.

Naples—Vesuvius—Best Views of the City and the Bay—Eustace's Tomb—Admirable Statuary in the Church of San Severo—Anecdote relative to the Palace of Capo di Monte—Curious Etiquette at San Carlos—Inferiority of Italian Singers in Italy—No English Church at Naples.

Now that I have brought my narrative so far as the beaten ground of Naples, my privilege of description, throughout much abridged, that I might not weary by repetition, must be still further curtailed; and I shall be careful not to expatiate on topics already familiar, and especially to avoid intruding into that province which Mrs. Starke has appropriated to herself, by her accurate and entertaining Guide-book. It requires some self-denial, however, to dismiss Naples without dwelling on its innumerable beauties.

At the time I visited Vesuvius, the crater

was quite tranquil, and afforded little interest. Those who ascend the summit merely for the purpose of enjoying the prospect, may have that pleasure without any labour on the road a little beyond the Hermitage, a short distance from the foot of the mountain. There is, indeed, a still better view from the Convent of St. Martin; but the one which, in my judgment, must be superior to any in Naples, is that which I heard is afforded from the terrace of Camaldoli.

In my rambles, I stepped into the church of Le Crocelle, to see poor Eustace's tomb. It is but a humble monument for a man so distinguished, yet it may serve to remind us how severe the world has been towards one who, notwithstanding his errors, has greatly contributed to its amusement and instruction.

The church of San Severo, which is little more than a mausoleum of the Sangro family, contains three celebrated pieces of statuary, of which I obtained a more detailed account

than I have seen elsewhere: one of Modesty, covered wholly with a veil; a Man caught in a Net; and a recumbent Figure of a dead Christ, which surpasses all imagination by its exquisite sculpture and admirable expression. The first statue is said to represent the mother of Don Raimondo di Sangro, who himself is exhibited in the second, as one undeceived with respect to the vanities of the world by his better reason, here expressed by a Genius disentangling a man from a net.

The first of these masterpieces is by a Genoese named Queirolo; the second by Corrodino, who designed the third statue also, but which was executed after his death by San Martino; the last is transcendent.

There is also in the church a monument of Don Francisco di Sangro, represented as rising out of a chest, in armour, and grasping a drawn sword. He pretended to be dead, and caused himself to be inclosed in a vault,

from which he issued at night to take vengeance on his unprepared enemies.

It is said, that the Palace of Capo di Monte, which is on an elevated spot about two miles from the town, owes its construction to the following circumstances :—The late King of Naples having, while in alliance with England, acted against us in a hostile manner, a fleet was sent to require satisfaction. The Admiral forwarded his dispatches on shore by an officer, with directions to bring back a proper answer before the lapse of an hour. The Neapolitans wanted to prevent his landing, but he pointed to the guns of the Admiral's ship, and was allowed to pass. No one could be persuaded to take his despatches to the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, who was in the Council Chamber. The officer carried them thither himself, but was told the Council was sitting, and could not be disturbed; whereupon he opened the door, and delivered them with his own hands.

The King and Council demurred—they were told the guns of the fleet would open on the town when the hour was expired. Being without resource, the concession demanded was agreed to, and the King gave orders for building the Palace at Capo di Monte, that he might at least have a residence beyond the reach of the British cannon.

A piece of etiquette, which prevails at the theatre of San Carlos. is sufficiently curious. If any of the royal family be present, none of the audience testify the least approbation of the performance till a slight motion of the august hands gives the signal for applause. It was amusing to see all eyes directed to the royal box, when there was a disposition in the house to applaud, and to perceive how frequently the dozing of the illustrious referee defeated their good intentions. Any expression of disapprobation is strictly prohibited.

In Italy, I had fully expected to be delighted by hearing the music of its best mas-

ters, sung by performers best qualified to do it justice;—but in this I was greatly disappointed. There were no good vocalists: even at San Carlos, and at the Scala at Milan, the two finest theatres in the world, the prima donnas were decidedly inferior, and would scarcely have been listened to at the English Opera. Generally speaking, indeed, the absence of music, especially in the streets, is remarkable throughout Italy. As the sovereigns are the principal contributors to the theatres, perhaps the Italians are less fastidious than they were formerly, being contented to accept an inferior amusement at a smaller price. The true reason, however, probably is, that wealthier nations can afford to give greater remuneration to professional talent, and thus Polyhymnia is bribed to desert her once favoured land.

On asking for the English Church, I was told there was none. Not because there was any objection on the part of the Neapo-

litans—not because there was any deficiency of Protestants in the city—not because there were wanting clergymen anxious for the appointment; but because the numerous English residents and visiters would not contribute towards paying the moderate salary of a chaplain, one moiety of which the British government has consented to defray. The Consul-General had endeavoured to overcome this indifference on the part of our countrymen, and his failure, it must be reluctantly allowed, remains a blot on the national respectability.

CHAPTER XX.

Pontine Marshes—Destruction of early illusions by Mr. Niebuhr—Author's admiration of Rome unimpaired by having previously visited Egypt—Defacement of Public Monuments—Hospice of St. Bernard—Return to England.

HAVING fairly commenced our Italian journey, we dismissed all our heavy baggage, as the country through which we had to pass would render it superfluous, though, notwithstanding the luxuries which English travellers had for some years introduced, I found at many stages pudding dishes for basins, and a variety of other such expedients prevailing. On crossing the Pontine Marshes, the postilions drove us slowly, because we refused them double fees. These famous marshes, however, appeared not much more formidable to me than the Barrackpore road near Calcutta, when the rice grounds on each side are overflowed and stagnant.

On our entrance into Albano, we passed a ruin hitherto supposed to be the tomb of the Curiatii.—Must we have all our pleasing, youthful fancies and associations dispelled by Mr. Niebuhr's sober wand of truth?—I now consider it an advantage to have travelled through the country before having heard of his book, and to have been enabled to yield, without suspicion, to long-established illusions regarding the acts and fortunes of many celebrated men, whom his unpoetical erudition has proved to have had existence only in fiction.

After visiting the Lake, we reached Rome, about one o'clock, passing on the approach to our inn the Coliseum, the Forum, the Columns of Trajan and Antoninus, and other interesting objects, impressed upon our minds from the earliest period of our youth; and the sight of which, even in more sober age, made my heart beat with enthusiasm.

The author of the "English in Italy"

takes an opportunity of condemning the affectation of those travellers, who, having visited Egypt, pretend to find nothing interesting in the "Eternal City." In this instance I shall not come under his censure, for I do not hesitate to say, that after all the wonders of Egypt, and after raising my anticipations to the highest pitch, Rome still surpassed my most exaggerated expectations. I would not, however, offend my ancient favourites in Egypt, by comparing them to objects so dissimilar. Rome and Egypt have each their peculiar beauties, and one may enjoy the delight of having seen both, without entering on the unsatisfactory task of contrast.

The late Pope was most meritoriously regardful of the cleanliness of the capital, and thus enabled visiters not to restrict their admiration to the ancient city alone, but to extend it to the modern improvements, evinced in the embellishment of

churches and the opening of new fountains. He also liberally contributed to the health and comfort of the people, by completing extensive walks and drives, commenced by the French, (that of Mount Pincio particularly)—but above all, his scrupulous preservation and repair of every ancient relic demand our gratitude. From Rome we passed through Florence, to Pisa, a city which interested me next to Rome itself.

At Leghorn I discovered our first approach to a vicinity crowded by sailors and a lower class of English, not alone from the appearance of their ships, and their activity on the quay, but from the habits of *destructiveness* so peculiar to the nation, an organ which I am sure Spurzheim would find highly developed in most of our countrymen.

While admiring the beautiful colossal figures in bronze attached to the statue of Ferdinand I., which stands in the Dock-yard, I observed that they were in some

places indented, and covered with mud. On inquiring the cause, I was informed that this violence was attributed to the English sailors, many of whose missiles, in the shape of stones and brickbats, were lying around. It is too well known that this propensity of our countrymen to mischief is not exercised in foreign lands only, and it furnishes the sole excuse for shutting up our churches and public edifices, a practice so universally condemned by foreigners;—but who can wonder at these restrictions, after seeing placards affixed in the metropolis itself, denouncing punishment against those who wantonly deface its embellishments, and would even demolish the monuments of national gratitude?

By a far different feeling is the Italian actuated. There is not a Roman who does not consider St. Peter's as his own. Let the slightest disrespect be shown towards it, or the smallest injury offered to its ornaments, or to those of any building in the city, and

he would resent it as a personal insult, and consider it his own peculiar misfortune*.

Leaving Leghorn, we went to Lucca, Spezzia†, Genoa, and Nice. Thence crossing the Col di Tenda, by the magnificent and lovely road lately opened for posting, we came to Turin, Milan, Como, and Lago Maggiore, and crossing the Simplon, arrived, by the way of Martigni, at Geneva. From Geneva I ascended to Chamouni and Mon-

* I may here mention a singularly unfortunate circumstance which occurred to an English traveller, though purely accidental. While pointing out the beauties of Madame Langhans' famous tomb at Hindelbanck, in Switzerland (by Nahl)[a], he unfortunately struck off with his cane the nose of the principal figure; and though it has been repaired, the mark is still visible, and the original expression of the countenance completely changed. Yet who can see this beautiful conception of genius, though thus defaced, and executed in coarse materials, without being affected with mingled feelings of pity and admiration!

† The road from Spezzia to Genoa was still, in many parts, in a very rugged state, but I think far surpasses in sublimity that over the Simplon.

[a] The tomb appears to be bursting as at the day of resurrection, and discovers Madame Langhans about to rise from her imprisonment, with her new-born infant, who seems to be assisting her with its little hands to part the stone which yet opposes their liberation.

tanvert, the Mer de Glace, and crossed the Col de Balme, back to Martigni. Thence we thought it necessary to make an excursion to the Great St. Bernard, which I shall mention somewhat more at large, and perhaps spare others, who may form romantic preconceptions, the disappointment I experienced; for great part of the road is dreary, without affording any grand prospects, and the establishment at the Hospice partakes so much of a secular and every-day character, that I do not think the interest of the journey compensates for its length and fatigue.

The monks being at prayers when we arrived at the Hospice, we were introduced by a servant into a comfortable room, where we were shortly joined by the Père Econome. After some conversation, he took us a short and dreary walk to the chapel and the charnel house, where the bodies of strangers who have perished in the snow are deposited. There had been no accidents of this kind during the past year, and I could only per-

ceive, by the momentary glance I took of the mournful receptacle, a mass of skeletons and mouldering remains. I suspect, indeed, the effects of the climate in preserving the features for many years from alteration or decomposition have been greatly exaggerated, if they do not exist altogether in the imagination of novelists. I found the Père Econome quite a man of the world in his discourse and manners. On our return from walking, he produced some music books, led me to the piano, and took a chair by my side, and I never thought myself more out of place than when I beheld a monk of St. Bernard in his high black cap, and in the dress of his order, bending over the notes of the instrument at which I was seated.

It being a fast-day, the other brethren excused themselves, and we sat down to dinner, which consisted of the usual ingredients of maigre day, with him alone.

During the favourable season, scarcely a

day passes without visiters; there have sometimes been forty at once. In proof of this I may mention, that on our return home we met twelve persons on their way to the Hospice. In consequence of this influx of guests it has become necessary to enlarge the building, which has now the appearance of an hotel, and is attended by a waiter and a chamber-maid. The only difference is, that one goes through the form of dining with the monks, and receiving, under the semblance of obligation, the hospitality for which the convent is amply repaid. When there are female guests, the monks usually join them at meals, in the strangers' parlour; otherwise, the gentlemen are admitted into the refectory. So much has it come to be considered in the light of an inn, that some persons have been guilty of the indecorum of expressing a desire to dine alone, which was very properly refused on the part of the monks, with whom it is a rule that one at least should preside in the visiters' room.

St. Bernard is a dependence of the Augustin monastery, at Martigni. None but young and robust men reside at the Hospice, and as they become old or unfit to withstand the inclemency of the mountain climate, they are transferred to the establishment below. The monks of the order have the privilege of writing directly to the Pope, are permitted to drink wine, and to read newspapers and books of miscellaneous literature, to amuse their solitude. Having so much society and so many indulgences, the condition of these monks is, probably, on the whole, more comfortable than that of their brethren in many other convents.

The old breed of dogs is all but extinct. The new ones do not possess the same large head and double nose, but are said to be equally sagacious; and the activity of the brethren is as sedulous as ever in seeking out persons lost in the snow, and though the loss of lives has not of late been so frequent, the establishment is still eminently

useful to travellers. The convent register contains a touching acknowledgment of one of these from Turin, who fell down from exhaustion for the fourth time just at the door of the Hospice, when he was accidentally perceived and recovered.

The neighbouring peasantry, who frequently miss their way in traversing the mountains, experience the kindest treatment from the monks, who, though they receive, as is but fair, contributions from opulent visitants, extend their benevolence gratuitously to the poor.

After leaving Saint Bernard, we traversed the greater part of Switzerland, ascending the Grimsel and Righi. Our course then took us to Lyons, and after a short stay at Paris, I reached England early in September, 1828, having been above eleven months on my varied and most interesting journey.

The foregoing pages contain so many proofs of the facility with which the overland journey is performed, and of the gratification which rewards the undertaking, that it seems now superfluous for the author to declare her decided preference of it to the sea voyage round the Cape. While peace continues with the Turks, there can be no just ground for apprehending molestation on their part; but, on the contrary, every degree of courtesy may be expected from the Egyptian government. The shoals of the Red Sea and the storms of the Mediterranean are not usually considered so formidable as the hurricanes of the Mauritius, and the gales off the Cape of Good Hope. The expense of the overland passage is much less, for it is not necessary to consume one half of the time which the author did in Egypt

and the continent of Europe. From the moment of entering a ship for the Cape voyage, until its termination at the end of four or five months, persons are unavoidably subjected, whatever may be the kindness of the commander, to restraint and inactivity; but, on the other hand, the passage up the Red Sea having been effected, all then is novelty, interest, and enjoyment.

In the Appendix, besides descriptions from the best authorities of the principal places visited in Egypt, will be found an itinerary of the author's route, with some hints for the guidance of overland travellers, which, it is hoped, will prove useful and acceptable.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

A.

ROUTE FROM CALCUTTA THROUGH EGYPT, &c.

	Arrived.	Left.
Calcutta . . .		Sep. 26.
Trincomalé . .	Oct. 9.	Oct. 10.
Point de Galle . . .	— 13.	— 14.
Bombay . . .	— 21.	Nov. 15.
Mocha . . .	Dec. 1.	Dec. 3.
Cosseir . . .	— 26.	— 28.

ROUTE of the DESERT in the TUKHTE ROWAN, and with the Baggage.

1827.	Hours.	Miles.
Dec. 28. Left *Cosseir* at Two o'clock P.M.; reached *Bir 'Ingles* at Seven P.M.	5	11
— 29. *Bir Ingles* at Ten; reached *Syalut Aboo-Hoodada* at Five .	7	20
— 30. *Hoodada* at Eight; reached *Wad ul Ghush* at Five. Some time delayed by adjusting the Tukhte Rowan	9	18
Carried forward	21	49

		Hours.	Miles.
	Brought forward .	21	49
Dec. 31.	*Wad ul Ghush* twenty minutes before Eight; reached *Hujaub ul Loghaut*		
1828.	at a quarter to Four .	8.5m	16
Jan. 1.	*Hujaub* a quarter to Eight; reached *Legayta Wells* about Three .	7	14
— 2.	*Legayta* at Eight; reached *Hujaza* at half-past Two .	6½	15
— 3.	Left *Hujaza* at Eight; reached *Luxor* (Thebes) at Four, having remained at Carnac about half an hour . .	7½	17
		50.5m	111

The time in which the gentlemen effected the passage separately from the Tukhte Rowan is subjoined. It includes stoppages for rest and refreshment.

	Left.	Arrived.	Hours.
1827. Dec. 28. . .	1½	6	4½
— 29. .	½9	5½	8¾
— 30. . .	7	1½	6½
— 31. .	7½	3	7½
1828. Jan. 1. . .	7	12	5
— 2. .	7½	1½	6
— 3. . .	8	12	4
			42¼

They arrived at Carnac at Twelve, and, after remaining some time there, proceeded on to Luxor.

Continuation of the Author's Route.

	Arrived. 1828.	Left.
Crossed the Nile	Jan. 5.	
Embarked from Thebes	— 18.	
Dendera	— 19.	Jan. 20.
How	— 22.	
Girjeh	— 23.	— 24.
Siout	— 27.	
Manfalout	— 28.	
Antinoë	— 28.	
Melaoui	— 28.	
Bennihassen	— 29.	
Bensouef	— 31.	
Cairo	Feb. 1.	Feb. 10.
Embarked	— 10.	
Reached the Canal (Fouah)	— 11.	— 12.
Alexandria	— 14.	— 18.
Malta	Mar. 5.	Apr. 9.
Syracuse	Apr. 10.	— 11.

	Miles.	Hours.
Apr. 11. Left *Syracuse* at half-past Ten; reached *Lentini* at half-past Six	24	8
— 12. Left *Lentini* at Nine; reached *Catania* at half-past Two	18	5½
— 14. Left *Catania* at Eight; reached *Giarra* at half-past Three	20	7½
— 15. Left *Giarra* at Eight, passing through *Taurominium*, and reached *Fiumi di Nisi* at Six	24	10
— 16. Left *Fiumi di Nisi* at Eight; reached *Messina* at half-past Three	18	7½
	104	38

	Arrived.	Left.
Messina		Apr. 19.
Salerno	Apr. 20.	
Pæstum	— 21.	
Pompeii	— 22.	
Naples	— 22.	May 7.
Molo di Gaeta	May 7.	
Albano	— 8.	
Rome	— 9.	— 23.
Terni	— 23.	
Perugia	— 24.	
Florence	— 25.	June 3.
Pisa	June 3.	
Leghorn	— 4.	
Lucca and Baths	— 5.	
Spezzia	— 6.	
Genoa	— 7.	— 11.
Albenga	— 11.	
Mentone	— 12.	
Nice	— 13.	
Col di Tenda	— 14.	
Turin	— 15.	— 18.
Milan	— 18.	— 22.
Como and Levano	— 22.	
Sesto and Arona	— 23.	
Domo D'Ossola	— 24.	
Crossed the Simplon	— 25.	
Martigni	— 26.	
Geneva	— 27.	July 1.
Chamouni	July 1.	
Montanvert	— 2.	
Crossed the Col de Balm and Martigni	— 3.	— 5.

	Arrived.	Left.
St. Bernard	July 5.	
Martigni and Bex	— 6.	July 8.
Lausanne	— 8.	
Vevay and Bulle	— 9.	
Fribourg and Berne	— 10.	— 14.
Hofwyl and Hindelbank	— 11.	
Soleure and Wissenstein	— 12.	
Berne, Thun, and Unterseen	— 14.	
Lauterbrun	— 15.	— 17.
Grinderwald	— 17.	
Rosenlaue and Meyrengen	— 18.	
Grimsel	— 19.	
Hospital	— 20.	
Altorf and Fluelen	— 21.	
Brunen, Switz, Righi	— 22.	— 24.
Kusnach, Lucerne	— 24.	— 26.
Zug and Zurich	— 26.	— 29.
Constance	— 29.	
Schaffhausen	— 30.	Aug. 1.
Baden	Aug. 1.	
Basle	— 2.	— 4.
Tavarn	— 4.	
Neufchatel	— 5.	— 8.
Yverdun and Lausanne	— 8.	
Geneva	— 9.	— 11.
Pontd'ain	— 11.	
Lyons	— 12.	— 14.
Chalons	— 14.	
Rouveray	— 15.	
Sens	— 16.	— 18
Fontainebleau	— 18.	

	Arrived.	Left.
Paris	Aug. 19.	Sep. 2.
Airaines	Sep. 2.	
Calais	— 3.	— 6.
Dover	— 6.	

B.

The following extracts from the works of Hamilton and Richardson, relative to the principal buildings in the Author's route through Egypt are inserted, as likely to be acceptable to the homeward-bound traveller. The most essential parts only, however, have been given, and reference must be had to the originals for more detailed information.

It seems to be still doubtful on which side of the Nile Thebes Proper was situated. On the right bank are the ruins of the temples of Luxor and Carnac, and on the left the palace of Medinet Haboo, the burying-places of the kings and queens,

Ebek, the Memnonium, and the catacombs of Gournoo, all of which may be included under the term Thebes.

LUXOR.

[Hamilton's Egyptiaca, p. 114.]

"In approaching this temple from the north, the first object is a magnificent propylon, or gateway, which is two hundred feet in length, and the top of it fifty-seven feet above the present level of the soil. In front of the entrance are the two most perfect obelisks in the world, each of a single block of red granite, from the quarries of Elephantine; they are between seven and eight feet square at the base, and above eighty feet high; many of the hieroglyphical figures with which they are covered are an inch and three-quarters deep, cut with the greatest nicety and precision. Between these obelisks and the propylon are two colossal statues, also of red granite; though buried in the ground to the chest, they still measure twenty-one and twenty-two feet from thence to the top of their mitres. The attention of the traveller is soon diverted from these masses, to the sculptures which cover the eastern wing of the north front of the propylon, on which is a very animated description of a remarkable event in the campaigns of

some Osymandryas or Sesostris*." The "ruined portico," which is entered from the gateway, is of "very large dimensions" [p. 119]; "from this a double row of seven columns, with lotus-capitals, two and thirty feet in circumference, conducts you into a court, one hundred and sixty feet long, and one hundred and forty wide, terminated at each side by a row of columns, beyond which is another portico of thirty-two columns, and the adytum, or interior apartments of the building."

[Richardson's Travels, vol. ii. p. 84.]

"The temple of Luxor was probably built on the banks of the Nile for the convenience of sailors and wayfaring men; where, without much loss of time, they might stop, say their prayers, present their offerings, &c. Great and magnificent as it is, it only serves to shew us the way to a much greater, to which it is hardly more in comparison than a kind of porter's lodge; I mean the splendid ruin of the temple at Carnac. The distance from Luxor to Carnac is about a mile and a half, or two miles. The whole road was formerly lined with a row of sphinxes on each side. At present these are entirely covered up for about two-thirds of the way, on the end nearest to Luxor. On the latter part of the road,

* See the whole description in Hamilton, p. 115 to 118.

near to Karnak, a row of criosphinxes (that is, with a ram's head and a lion's body) still exist on each side of the way."

CARNAC.

[Hamilton, p. 122.]

"The name of Diospolis is sufficient to entitle us to call the grand temple at Carnac the temple of Jupiter. This temple has twelve principal entrances, each of which is composed of several propyla and colossal gateways, or *moles*, besides other buildings attached to them, in themselves larger than most other temples. One of the propyla is entirely of granite, adorned with the most finished hieroglyphics. On each side of many of them have been colossal statues of basalt, breccia, and granite; some sitting, some erect, from twenty to thirty feet in height.

"The body of the temple, which is preceded by a large court, at whose sides are colonnades, of thirty columns in length, and through the middle of which are two rows of columns fifty feet high, consists, first, of a prodigious hall, or portico, whose roof is sustained by one hundred and thirty-four columns, some of which are twenty-six feet in circumference, and others thirty-four; then are four beautiful obelisks, marking the entrance to the adytum,

near which the monarch is represented as embraced by the arms of Isis.

" The adytum itself consists of three apartments, entirely of granite. The principal room, which is in the centre, is twenty feet long, sixteen wide, and thirteen feet high. Three blocks of granite form the roof, which is painted with clusters of gilt stars, on a blue ground. Beyond are other porticoes and galleries, which have been continued to another propylon, at the distance of two thousand feet from that at the western extremity of the temple.

" It may not be uninteresting to add a few more particulars relative to this temple, the largest, perhaps, and certainly one of the most ancient in the world.

" Two of the porticoes within it appear to have consisted of pillars, in the form of human figures, in the character of Hermes, that is, the lower part of the body hidden, and unshapen, with his arms folded, and in his hand the insignia of divinity; perhaps the real origin of the Grecian Caryatides.

" Exclusive of these columnar statues, which have been thirty-eight in number, and the least of them thirty feet high, there are fragments more or less mutilated, of twenty-three other statues, in granite, breccia, and basalt, seventeen of which are colossal, and have been placed in front of the several

entrances. They are in general from twenty-five to thirty feet in height, and executed in the best Egyptian style.

C.

BIBAN OOL MOOLK,

OR THE TOMBS OF THE KINGS.

[Richardson's Travels, vol. i. page 264.]

"It is a most dismal looking spot, a valley of rubbish, without a drop of water, or blade of grass. The entrance to the tombs looks out from the rock like the entrance to so many mines; and were it not for the recollections with which it is peopled, and the beautiful remains of ancient art which lie hid in the bosom of the mountain, would hardly ever be visited by man or beast. The heat is excessive, from the confined dimensions of the valley, and the reflection of the sun from the rock and sand. The whole valley is filled with rubbish that has been washed down from the rock, or carried out in the making of the tombs, with merely a narrow road up the centre."

[Richardson's Travels, vol. i. p. 266.]

" Diodorus Siculus states, on the authority of the Egyptian priests, that forty-seven of these tombs were entered in their sacred registers, only seventeen of which remained in the time of Ptolemy Lagus. And in the 180th Olympiad, about sixty years B. C., when Diodorus Siculus was in Egypt, many of these were greatly defaced. Before Mr. Belzoni began his operations in Thebes, only eleven of these tombs were known to the public. From the great success that crowned his exertions, the number of them is nearly double. The general appearance of these tombs is that of a continued shaft, or corridor, cut in the rock, in some places spreading out into large chambers; in other places small chambers pass off by a small door from the shaft, &c. In some places where the rock is low and disintegrated, a broad excavation is formed on the surface, till it reaches a sufficient depth of solid stone, when it narrows, and enters by a door of about six or eight feet wide, and about ten feet high. The passage then proceeds with a gradual descent for about a hundred feet, widening or narrowing according to the plan or object of the architect, sometimes with side chambers, but more frequently not. The beautiful ornament of the globe, with the serpent in its wings, is sculptured

over the entrance. The ceiling is black, with silver stars, and the vulture, with outspread wings, holding a ring and a broad feathered sceptre by each of his feet, is frequently repeated ón it, with numerous hieroglyphics, which are white or variously coloured. The walls on each side are covered with hieroglyphics, and large sculptured figures of the deities of Egypt, and of the hero for whom the tomb was excavated. Sometimes both the hieroglyphics and the figures are wrought in intaglio; at other times they are in relief; but throughout the same tomb they are generally all of one kind. The colours are green, blue, red, black, and yellow, on a white ground, and in many instances are as fresh and vivid as if they had not been laid on a month. Intermixed with the figures, we frequently meet with curious devices, representing tribunals where people are upon their trials, and sometimes undergoing punishment; the preparation of mummies, and people bearing them in procession on their shoulders; animals tied for sacrifice, and partly cut up; and occasionally the more agreeable pictures of entertainments, with music and dancing, and well-dressed people listening to the sound of the harp, played by a priest, with his head shaved, and dressed in a loose flowing white robe, shot with red stripes."

D.

[Hamilton, p. 168.]

"Two other Colossal statues, called also by some, the statues of Memnon, are in the plain about half-way between the desert and the river. The inundation had hardly left them early in January, and we had some difficulty in reaching them on that account. They are about fifty feet high, and seated each on a pedestal six feet in height, eighteen long, and fourteen broad. The stone of which they are formed is of a reddish grès."

These two statues are, by the Arabs, familiarly called Shamy and Damy.

E.

MEDINET HABOO.

[Hamilton, p. 137.]

"One outward inclosure, or brick wall, seems to have contained three distinct, though connected buildings, to which we may arbitrarily assign the names of the chapel, the palace, and the temple. [p. 138.]

The principal entrance to the palace from the plain being blocked up, it is only to be approached now by a side door-way from the pronaos of the chapel. Of this building, which may once have been the residence of the sovereigns of Egypt, one tower only is remaining. This was divided into three stories, in each of which are two apartments. The stone pavement of the lower rooms is still perfect, but the upper floors, and the wooden beams which supported them, have entirely disappeared. The interior walls have not such a profusion of sculptures as those without. At each side of one of the windows is an Isis, with the hawk's wing, kneeling, and wearing the lunar crescent on her head. At another window are four projecting sphinxes; and in a corner of one of the rooms are two females, with baskets of lotuses on their heads, carrying a plate of cakes to the king, who is sitting; before him stands another female, with the same head-dress, stretching out her arm, while he puts some of the delicacies into her mouth."

REMARKS *during a Visit to Medinet Haboo, by a friend of the Author.*

"To the right of the outer portal of Medinet Haboo stand the remains of the palace of Ramses

the Third, one story in height, with windows. On ascending, we noticed some well executed relievos, which probably decorated the private apartments. Two figures, a male and female, decorated with head-dress and sandals only, are seated, playing at some game; the board is like a chess-board, the men resemble fox and geese. The seats are of elegant form; one of them is square, the other resembles a camp-stool, and has a lion's head in the centre. Above are four female figures, also unattired, with standards, and a vulture standing on a double standard of the same form. On the opposite wall is king Ramses making offerings and a libation before an unknown god, crested with a sun and horns, with the hieroglyphic of Thoth. On the wall to the left of the above apartments, the king is seen offering his own and Amun Ra's image to that deity.

"Below, and inclosed by the more modern structure of Ramses, is a small oblong temple of Tothmes the third, with fine low relievos and intaglioed hieroglyphics. This temple appears to have been repaired by Ptolemy Physcon, the more modern part of the edifice shewing his name. The Ptolemaic sculptures are better proportioned, but of inferior execution to the more ancient, especially the hieroglyphics. Besides the name of Ptolemy, appear those of Tothmes and Ramses. Here are also

figures of Chem, Amun Ra giving life to Tothmes, and of the unknown god, with a singular crest, everywhere else destroyed.

"On the first portal of the temple of Medinet Haboo, which is of massy architecture, with sloping walls, and raised corners, is a fine relievo of Ramses destroying his prisoners. The outer court presents on two sides columns with lotus capitals, and on the other two, square pillars. To the left of the second portal is a relievo, representing Ramses bringing prisoners to the god, and to the right is a large tablet of hieroglyphics covering the wall. The inner court has also pillars and columns on the opposite sides, and the interior wall is covered with sculptures, chiefly mythological. The king is usually represented as conducted by, or under the protection of deities. In one place is a bark, upturned at the ends, and on it a square ark, the whole supported by priests, with bald heads and long dhoturs, much resembling Brahmins in dress and appearance. In another, the gods bind up a throne of flowers, resembling the lotus. In another, is an altar, with the heads of oxen, and other parts of the animal, upon it. In another, is Thoth writing on a palm branch, perpendicularly sculptured. The sons and daughters of the king are also sculptured in procession, the latter bearing sistrums.

"The general plan of Medinet Haboo resembles the tomb of Osymandyas in Diodorus, but is on a far smaller scale. I noticed particularly the starred azure ceiling, which retains the greatest brilliancy. Some of the outer relievos are very spirited. In a triumphal procession, an umbrella is borne behind Ramses. The prisoners bound have long beards and Asiatic features. By a heap of amputated hands, &c., stands a man apparently registering names on a tablet. The boat-fight, hunting-scene, and soldiers, are also well worthy observation."

F.

[Hamilton, p. 150.]

"EBEK, the most northern of all the Theban monuments, is only remarkable because the plan on which it is constructed is very different from that of all other temples in Egypt. It has a single row of columns in front, and the rest of the building is distributed into a variety of comparatively small apartments."

G.

MEMNONIUM.

[Richardson's Travels, vol. ii. page 14.]

"HAVING retraced our steps along the ancient avenue, to the edge of the rocky flat, we turned southward, and in a few minutes reached the Memnonium. On our way thither we passed many ruined huts, and many immense piles of unburnt brick, exactly like those large square piles that are erected for being burnt. I am rather disposed to think that they were only kept there till wanted, for the purpose of building. The term Memnonium is used by Strabo to designate that part of ancient Thebes which lies on the west side of the river. The French Savans, however, without any sufficient reason, have restricted it to the magnificent ruin which we are going to describe. This beautiful relic of antiquity looks to the east, and is fronted by a stupendous propylon, of which two hundred and thirty-four feet in length are still remaining. The propylon stands on the edge of the soil; but the area cultivable, or space for the Dromos behind it, is floored by the solid rock, on which the rest of the temple is erected. The eastern wall is much

fallen down, and both ends are greatly dilapidated. Every stone in the propylon appears to have been shaken and loosened in its place, as if from the concussion of an earthquake, for no human violence seems adequate to produce such an effect in such an immense mass of building as that under consideration. A stair enters from each end, by which to ascend to the top of the propylon, from which passages go off in a number of chambers, as in the temples of Phylæ, Edfou, &c."

The reader is referred to Dr. Richardson's work for a description of the sculpture on the walls of the temple.

H.

Near to the Temple of the Memnonium lies the broken colossal statue of red granite so often mentioned by writers on Egypt.

[Hamilton, p. 167.]

"Among other dimensions of this colossus, I found that it measured six feet ten inches over the foot, and sixty-two or sixty-three feet round the shoulders. This enormous statue has been broken off at the waist, and the upper part is

now laid prostrate on the back; the face is entirely obliterated, and, next to the wonder excited at the boldness of the sculptor who made it, and the extraordinary powers of those who erected it, the labour and exertions that must have been used for its destruction are most astonishing. It could only have been brought about with the help of military engines, and must then have been the work of a length of time. Its fall has carried along with it the whole of the wall of the temple which stood within its reach. It was not without great difficulty and danger that we could climb on its shoulder and neck; and in going from thence upon its chest, I was assisted by my Arab servant, who walked by my side, in the hieroglyphical characters engraven on its arm."

Names of Kings *deciphered on the ancient Egyptian Monuments.*

Luxor. On the great portal, columns, &c., court, &c., and on the obelisks—Ramses Miamun, and his son Amun me Ramses, supposed to be Sesostris.

LUXOR. On the great sanctuary, &c.—Amenoph II. (Egypt. name of Memnon.)

— On other parts—Tothmes, with Alexander.

CARNAC. On the columns of the great hall, or temple—Ramses Miamun, and Amun me Ramses.

— On the temple to the right—Tothmes.

— In other parts—Tcheschouk, his son Osorchon, and Psamitik.

— On the ceiling of the Propylon, South of Carnac—Berenice.

— On the granite sanctuary—Alexander, Philip; Nero and other Roman Emperors; also Tothmes, with Philip.

MEDINET HABOO. On the palace, &c.—Ramses the Third.

— On the back of a small portico—Tiraka.

— On the small temple within the palace—Tothmes Ramses; with Ptolemy (Physcon), who appears to have repaired it.

STATUES in the plain—Amenoph II. seventh predecessor of Ramses me Amun.

I.

DENDERA.

[Hamilton, p. 194.]

"THE great Temple of Venus or Isis, which we were now come to, presented itself to us in all its original magnificence. The centuries it has seen have scarcely affected it in any important part; and have given it no greater appearance of age and ruin than what serves to render it more venerable and imposing. After seeing innumerable monuments of the same kind throughout the Thebaid, it seemed as if we were now arrived at the highest pitch of architectural excellence that was ever attained on the borders of the Nile. Here we found concentrated the united labour of ages, and the last effort of human art and industry in that regular uniform line of construction which had been adopted in the earliest times. After admiring the general effect of the whole mass, its elegance, solidity, correct proportions, and graceful outlines, it was difficult to decide on what particular objects were to be first examined. Whether its sculptures or paintings, typical and ornamental, the distribution of the interior apartments, the details of the capitals and columns, the mystical meaning

of particular representations here seen for the first time; the Zodiacs*, or the other celestial phenomena, sculptured on the ceilings; all seemed objects of high interest and importance, all invited a nearer and closer inspection. The portico consists of twenty-four columns in three rows, each above twenty-two feet in circumference, thirty-two feet high, and covered with hieroglyphics. The peculiar form of the square capital, with a front face of the goddess on each side, is best understood by a view of the drawing which I have given of the building as it now appears. We were at first struck by the singularity of an idea so foreign to the common notions of Greek architecture; but the eye is soon reconciled to it, and the solemn and mild monotony of these faces impresses the spectator with a silent reverential awe, a willing conviction of the immediate presence of the deity of the place in her most gracious character; and, indeed, the Greeks, in their Caryatides, seem in some degree to have added their sanction to the principle."

[P. 197.]

"The sekos, or interior of the temple, consists of several apartments, all the walls and ceilings of which are in the same way covered with religious

* The principal Zodiac has since been removed.

and astronomical representations. The roofs are like the rest in Egypt, flat; the oblong masses of stone resting on the side walls; and when the distance of these is too great, one or two rows of the columns carried down the middle of the apartment, by which the roof is supported. The capitals of these columns are very richly ornamented with the budding lotus, the stalks of which being carried down some way below the capital, give the shaft the appearance of being fluted, or rather scalloped."

THE following desultory notes, made from books which cannot now be distinctly quoted, and from conversations, are added in the hope that they may possibly be useful to the traveller from India, who goes lightly equipped.

The Shepherd-Kings conquered the kingdom of Egypt in the reign of Timaus, and reigned, in all, five hundred and eleven years: they were expelled by Thumosis: 240,000 men marched out through the desert into Syria. They halted in Judea, and built a city, for fear of the Assyrians. The city is now called Jerusalem. Manetho and Josephus conceive the Shepherd-Kings to have been the Jews. The kings of the eighteenth dynasty, who drove out the Shepherd-Kings, and the first of the nineteenth, erected the grand palaces and temples at Carnac, Luxor, Medinet Haboo, Gournoo, the Memnonium, and Medamoud. Some accounts fix Sesostris about fifteen hundred years B.C.; others make him contemporary with the Trojan war, but the theory of Newton and several others is, that he was the same as Shishak who sacked Jerusalem, under Rehoboam, about nine hundred and seventy years B.C.

The following buildings in Egypt are ascertained, according to Champollion, to have been erected under the Pharaohs :—The ruins of San, the obelisk of Heliopolis, the palace of Abydos, or El Arabah, a small temple at Dendera, Carnac, Luxor, Medamoud, Gournoo, the Memnonium, the palace called the Tomb of Osymandyas, the excavations at Biban ool Moolk, the hypogees in the mountain over Thebes, the temples of Elephantine, and a small part of those at Philoe.

The Greeks and Romans erected the following in Egypt :—the temple of Bahbert, the Kasr-Keroun, the portico of Kaiul Kebir, the great temple and typhonium at Dendera, the portico at Esneh, the temple north of Esneh; the temple and typhonium at Edfoo; the temples of Ambos, the greatest part of the buildings at Philoe.

Ptolemaic Ruins :—The temple at Erment and Tuot, temple at Edfoo, Esneh, temple of Aphroditopolis, now called E'days, to the north of Esneh; Contralatopolis, a small temple on the east bank of the Nile, El Hegs (Eleithya), small but ruinous temples and interesting catacombs, east bank.

The great tomb discovered by Belzoni is called also Amun Mai Ramses; Bruce's tomb, Ramses III. The third tomb was called by the ancients that of Memnon. The finest sculptures are those

of the kings of the eighteenth and nineteenth dynasty.

All authorities agree that Ramses, Sethosis and Sesostris are the same person. Plausible accounts make him contemporary with the Trojan war.—(See *Edinburgh Review*, No. LX.) Champollion, it is believed, is an exception to this opinion. Ramses Meiamon built the palace of Medinet Haboo, and several parts of the buildings at Carnac and Luxor. He was father of Amenophis, and grandfather of Ramses the Great or Sesostris.

The deities in the tombs, as presiding over the dead, are different from those found in other monuments; the chief are Osiris and Isis.

The attributes of different deities are confounded by being applied to each other, but the phonetic name is generally inscribed over the figure.

Deities have curved beards.

The throne is the only certain mark of Isis.

HINTS TO TRAVELLERS LEAVING BENGAL FOR EGYPT.

The shortest way would be to proceed directly to Mocha. But if it be necessary to touch at Bombay, it would be advisable, if possible, to leave it at latest by the 1st of December. This will enable the party to reach Alexandria in good time, to arrive at Sicily, Naples, and Rome before the season is too much advanced. Malta should be quitted by the 25th, Sicily by the end of March, Naples by the 20th of April, and Rome is seldom pleasant after the 1st of May.

To travel with comfort across the desert, the following articles would be desirable. Each family should have two tents, viz. a single poled tent, called in Bengal a rowtee, well lined, and a smaller one for the servants; sufficient kunnauts to surround the sleeping tent; a dining-tent also for the whole party; a trunk, full of strong cotton rope, about an inch thick; packthread; a few sail-makers' needles and common carpenters' tools; wax candles; oil (which is procurable again at Kennah;) common lanterns; light lined umbrellas; a portable camp bed for each person (those on brass triangles are the best), with blankets and lined with baize cur-

tains, round the head, the great inconvenien[illegible] desert being the piercing wind at night. A[illegible] little difference between travelling in the de[illegible] what is commonly termed "marching" [illegible] more specific directions respecting camp [illegible] and furniture would be superfluous. The [illegible] however, are capable of carrying larger [illegible] than those in India. A sea couch, with [illegible] underneath, and made to divide in half, so [illegible] slung on a camel, will be found very usef[illegible] also better not to part with the swing[illegible] after the sea voyage, as it will serve to carry bedding and clothes in daily wear.

The cot and other light things can be placed on a camel, in addition to two trunks. The trunks should be made as nearly as possible of the same size, and be calculated to carry about four dozen bottles each; say thirty-four inches long, twenty inches deep, and sixteen inches wide. They should be made strong, but of light wood, with padlocks, and each party should have a distinguishing and very apparent mark for their baggage.

Supplies of eatables and liquors must, of course, be taken, though sheep, eggs, and fruit, are occasionally to be purchased in the desert. Water also should be carried in bottles, as that found at the wells is only fit for culinary purposes and the cattle.

It is recommended not to restrict the number of servants: each individual should have at least one, besides two cooks for the whole party.

Should these servants not speak Arabic, it is indispensable that each person should provide himself with an interpreter, either at Mocha or Cosseir. The servants can generally be sent back from Cairo or Alexandria.

Any number of camels may be hired. The ordinary price of each from Cosseir to Kennah is a dollar and a half; but the route from Cosseir to Luxor, which is recommended, being somewhat longer, a trifle in addition is expected. The drivers are paid separately by a small donation. It may here be mentioned, that brandy is a most acceptable present to the Arabs as well as the Turks, for which purpose a supply of two or three dozens in stone pints should be added to the stock.

Asses afford the best and pleasantest method of travelling in the Desert; in consequence, camel saddles are not at all requisite. Even should the person be a heavy weight, it would only be necessary to provide one or two spare donkeys, as they are hardy, and endure great fatigue. English saddles are essential, not omitting side saddles for ladies. The author found her saddle of incalculable utility and comfort, not only in Egypt, but as far as Naples.

Where there are young children, a cuddie for [illegible] might be found useful; but were the author to cross the Desert again, she would dispense with it, as the climate is perfectly fine, and so exhilarating, that the fatigue of riding is inconsiderable.

It is to be remembered, that the climate of Egypt in the winter months is so much cooler than that of India, that the same number of changes of apparel would prove an incumbrance on the journey. A habit is an inconvenient travelling dress for a lady, but a cloth gown and a long petticoat, which latter can be thrown off and put on during the change of walking and riding, would answer the purpose much better.

It should be especially remembered, that the rope must not be given to the Arabs all at once, as from their dishonesty a deficiency would be felt towards the end of the journey, which it would be impossible to supply.

A few presents, consisting of common pistols, small telescopes, shawls of inferior value, kincobs, or any curious articles of Indian manufacture, should be carried for the purpose of conciliating the good offices of the Turkish authorities.

THE END.

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